EAST BAY EXPRESS

NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 4, 2012 THE EAST BAY'S INDEPENDENT WEEKLY SINCE 197 COM.

THE OAKLAND '09ERS

How several young tastemakers waded into the Great Recession, scored hit followings, and now have even more in store.

By Mark C. Anderson

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On the Cover *Adam Lamentoux. Photo by Wes Sumner*

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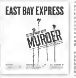

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A Political Problem

I appreciate that the *Express* has devoted this much time and print space to addressing Oakland's number-one problem: public safety. At the same time, I'm not sure I follow your central premise — that this is somehow a cultural problem specific to OPD. As your examples make abundantly clear, this is a problem of resources. We simply don't have enough officers to do the job in this city. That is a political problem, not a police culture problem.

We do not have leadership at either the mayor's level or within the city council that does anything more than make promises about police staffing. Think police officers are expensive? Of course they are — but who negotiated (and negotiates) those contracts? City officials. Think pension costs for city workers — and especially safety workers — are huge? Of course they are — and unfunded pension liability is a serious drag on the financial health of this city. But pensions are calculated to reflect base salaries. Who negotiated the deal for these things? Our city officials. And who continues to see pension obligation bonds (borrowing money to help pay off our pension obligations) as a solution — even though it means we will owe more in the long run? Our city officials. Think police overtime is a huge expense? Of course it is — but when you have fewer officers, they have to do more overtime to cover the same work. And then they do it poorly (as this article demonstrates). But who created a situation in which there would be fewer officers (thus more overtime) in the first place? Once again: our city officials.

You have done a truly commendable job in this article analyzing the specifics of our police department's shortcomings. But you need to do another article and take a good look at our city government — and the elected officials responsible for contributing to this mess. And while you're at it, how about including a discussion of Measure Y? This will sunset in about two years, and by that time we will have spent nearly $200 million that was supposed to fund more police and social programs to reduce violent crime. Did that funding produce more police officers? No. Did all the social programs make a meaningful reduction in violent crime? Seriously, you know the answer to that question. The sad truth is, more officers alone will not solve the problem. Some social programs do work — although the metrics they are judged by do not include a direct reduction in violent crime. That needs to change, but voters will likely not trust our elected officials when it is time to re-up Measure Y. And they are right to be cynical. After all that time and all that money, do any of us feel safer here?

Finally, how about including a more thorough examination of our city's crime-fighting policies? Oakland has no comprehensive plan to address violent crime. Instead, what we have are a series of initiatives — some of which (like the 100 Blocks) were more fantasy than factual. Others — like Operation Ceasefire — have potential, but require consistent, reliable political leadership and application of resources. Absent that, what we have is a hodgepodge of programs that are not connected and not consistently applied.

Joe Tuman, Oakland

The Carrot and the Stick

A mayor the opposite of Jean Quan and Ron Dellums could turn this situation around. That is, someone who stops doling out money for so many carrots (failed social programs) and who picks up the stick.

Charlie Pine, Oakland

The High Cost of Crime

A very useful piece of work, thank you. What remains to be spelled out for Oakland and East Bay residents are the social and economic costs of the ongoing high crime rate. Suffice to say they are enormous and they accumulate in social disarray and economic failure.

Mike Ferro, Oakland

The Valley of Death

Several years ago I was running around Lake Merritt and saw a man jumping around and waving a gun, obviously high on something. There were two small children with him. I found a phone and called 911. In three minutes, a police car pulled up and I pointed them to the man, about a hundred yards away. Watching from a safe distance, I saw one officer approach the man while the other covered him with a gun from behind their car. Soon there was a flash in the air as the man threw his pistol away.

I am not condoning the many egregious actions of the Oakland Police over the years, and at the same time you won't see me walking into that Valley of Death.

Ernest Isaacs, Berkeley

We Need a Countywide Crime Lab

As a person who served on a recent jury trial for attempted murder by handgun, this article really resonated. I served as a juror in an attempted murder case in 2009 and I witnessed first-hand everything the article

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points out when it comes to lack of sufficient evidence-gathering by the OPD, which may be caused either by lack of resources, overworked police, or both.

Setting aside the question of the number of police officers who are really needed and what their salary should be, I agree completely that an understaffed crime lab in the City of Oakland makes it more difficult to resolve and process criminal cases quickly and effectively. Cases are increasingly based on hearsay and character witnesses, and less on the evidence gathered at the scene of the crime. Jury deliberations take much longer than they otherwise would with good forensic evidence.

Jurors come to court expecting evidence to be produced like it is on TV. However, reality is far different. Forensics isn't even pursued for most crimes. As a result, jurors have a hard time making up their minds. Many who serve are very skeptical of anything a police officer says, even in court testimony.

So the process of justice takes longer, families of victims of violence need to wait years for closure, and the rate of conviction is also lower. Trying to save money by not staffing or supporting a county crime lab is penny wise and pound foolish.

Alameda County needs to come together and support a county crime lab. This will be good for the residents of Oakland as well as the suburbs like Albany and San Leandro, which depend on a thriving East Bay economy, which in turn includes a healthy and safe Oakland. Crime doesn't stop at the city border. So why should funding of the crime lab? We need political will at the county level to make the county crime lab a priority.

Kent Lewandowski, Oakland

The Truth About the Soda Tax

I was disappointed with local and national press coverage of Richmond's Measure N, a proposed tax on sugar-sweetened drinks. Ignoring the regressive nature of this tax, the mainstream press characterized the campaign as being a struggle between the "big-bad" beverage lobby and the "noble underdogs," Jeff Ritterman and his entourage of dedicated middle class activists. Ignored in this scenario were the targets of this regressive tax: the working class, minority communities, and small local merchants.

Dr. Ritterman repeatedly told the press that there was no organized opposition until the beverage lobby arrived. The press never challenged this assertion. In fact, there was a lot of grassroots opposition from the beginning. This opposition came from all segments of the community, especially the working class elements, but was dismissed by the measure's proponents and the press, implicitly communicating class and racial bias by assuming that the citizens of Richmond can't think for ourselves. In fact, we can and have, and two-thirds of the electorate demonstrated this by soundly defeating this poorly conceived regressive tax.

Charles T. Smith, Richmond

Corrections

In our November 7 review of Ash Reiter's *Hole*, we incorrectly stated that the album was self released. It was in fact released by 20 *Sided* Records.

●

Letters Policy

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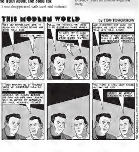
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LEGALIZATION NATION

NEW OAKLAND DISPENSARY IN FULL BLÜM

Plus: San Francisco's Shambhala is back in action, and Berkeley Patients Group is set to reopen in December

By David Downs

The legalization of recreational pot in two states this fall has left the feds dumbstruck, but the medical cannabis industry in the Bay Area is soldiering on with the opening of several dispensaries in the face of a fourteen-month crackdown by US attorneys in California. Blüm Oakland opened on November 11 at 578 West Grand Avenue (near Telegraph Avenue) in Oakland, according to its operators. Arturo Sanchez, assistant to the Oakland city administrator, said Blüm Oakland is the business name of Oakland Community Collective, a group that took first place this year in a city competition for four new Oakland dispensary permits.

Oakland Community Collective is run by a number of people familiar with the Oakland scene, including owner and general manager Salwa Ibrahim, a former Oaksterdam executive. Former WeGrow partner Derek Peterson co-owns OCC and is its chief financial officer. The first few weeks have seen a steady flow of customers. "Our main priority is just serving patients high-quality medicine," Ibrahim said.

The club is carrying four indicas, seven sativas, ten hybrids, more than two-dozen edibles, and about a dozen concentrates. The online menu updates in real time, said Ibrahim. Specials go for as low as $60 for a quarter ounce of Pineapple, Blue Dream, or outdoor Cookies. "We definitely want to make sure we can serve all patients regardless of their economic situation," she said.

Top-shelf Blüm Hawaiian and Cadillac Purple run as high as $17 a gram. Hours are very convenient: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays. The club accepts credit and debit cards and cash. The dispensary is also currently featuring artwork by Oakland's Oliver Black.

The City of Oakland has created a total of eight permits for medical cannabis dispensaries, and five businesses that hold such permits are currently operating. They include Harborside Health Center (which is fighting a federal forfeiture threat), Purple Heart Patient Center, and Oakland Organics. Coffeeshop Blue Sky — an Oaksterdam-affiliated establishment that was raided and closed in April after it moved twice to avoid a federal forfeiture threat — is also operational, Sanchez stated. (Blue Sky's listed phone number remains disconnected, though.) Blüm Oakland is the fifth club to open. Alternative Wellness, a project of TV personality Montel Williams, is "close" to being ready, Sanchez wrote in an email.

The holders of the last two provisional permits, Magnolia Wellness Inn and Tidewater Patients Group, continue to look for a location, Sanchez stated. Final operating permits are not issued until dispensary sites have completed construction, passed inspections, and received an occupancy permit from the fire department, he wrote.

Finding a suitable location has proven difficult for all Bay Area dispensary permit holders. In October 2011, four US attorneys declared a broad crackdown on the state's medical marijuana industry. Their chief weapon has been the federal threat of forfeiture, which has scared landlords into kicking out dispensary tenants. The crackdown has also spooked landlords from renting to potential clubs, commercial real estate agents say.

Twelve groups braved the crackdown and applied for four new Oakland dispensary permits last year. Ten finalists were announced in December 2011, four made it past hearings in January and were awarded permits contingent on finding suitable property. "The City of Oakland had a very lengthy, thorough process and we're very lucky to have gotten this far — all factors considered," Ibrahim said.

Elsewhere around the Bay, Berkeley Patients Group will return this December, according to an announcement from the huge Berkeley club, which was kicked out of its original location by a forfeiture threat. The dispensary will reopen at 2366 San Pablo Avenue in Berkeley.

And another one of US Attorney Melinda Haag's targets, Shambhala Healing Center, announced on November 14 that it has reopened its location at 2441 Mission Street in San Francisco's Mission District. "We have been encouraged by the recent election and the initiatives passed in favor of cannabis ... We look forward to seeing you again!" the club wrote to patients.

The City of San Francisco also continues to permit new clubs in the face of the crackdown, including the soon-to-open Mercado Collective down the street from Shambhala. The apparent renaissance in Bay Area dispensaries led *SF Weekly* to ask in a web headline last Friday: "Is the Dispensary Crackdown Over?"

Haag's office generally refuses to comment on the crackdown. But *Sacramento Bee* reporter Peter Hecht got a hold of Benjamin Wagner, US attorney for the Eastern District of California, and Wagner told Hecht that "so long as conditions in California stay the same, our enforcement efforts are going to be pretty much the same."

Seeds & Stems

While we were stuffing turkey, stoners in Amsterdam awarded top honors to the best ganja in the world in the 25th annual *High Times* Cannabis Cup on November 22. It was a celebratory competition compared to last year, which saw the threat of a ban on foreigners in Amsterdam coffee shops as well as the first-ever police raid of the Cannabis Cup expo. A more liberal government has since quashed the idea of keeping foreigners out of Amsterdam coffee shops, and this year's events were raid-free. Green House Coffeeshop took first place in the Cannabis Cup for its Flower Bomb Kush. ●

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This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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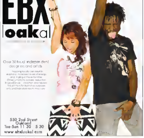

THE NEXT PEET'S?

Blue Bottle Coffee was recently purchased by a trio of venture capitalists known for growing small start-ups and then selling them to big companies.

By Darwin BondGraham

Scott Beale/Flickr CC)

Oakland's beloved coffee roaster Blue Bottle Coffee, Inc. raised $20 million last month when a new group of investors took ownership of the company. In a regulatory filing, Blue Bottle listed Bryan Meehan, Tony Conrad, and Mike Volpi as the new majority owners. Although Blue Bottle founder James Freeman said the three have no plans to change the company's direction, *The Wall Street Journal* has referred to Meehan, Conrad, and Volpi as "well known technology investors" who seed small startups and then sell them out to corporate giants for big bucks.

In many ways, food is the new hot investment with enormous growth potential. This is especially true of organic and artisan brands, which have become coveted commodities, attracting major private equity investors in recent years. Small hip coffee roasters are among the most prized investment opportunities, so many industry observers worry that small quality coffee roasters like Blue Bottle may be ruined by their own commercial success.

But Freeman said the new investors are simply providing cash to improve the company's product, and that he intends to proceed with the same steady plans for growth that were hatched years ago. "Our plans are to invest in making better coffee first, then add locations," said Freeman in an email. The new influx of capital will allow Blue Bottle to focus more on quality, he added. "We are hiring an assistant in the quality control department, and adding trainers to the training department. We are working on improving water filtration in New York, and sending more people in the company out to source great coffee for us."

Perhaps the biggest new thing Blue Bottle has in store for customers is its bottled brands of "New Orleans" and "Kyoto" coffee, which the company plans to find a wider market for. "I had the acumen to help make it delicious," said Freeman, "but I am not the guy to figure out how to get it produced in larger quantities and into stores."

That's likely where the company's new venture capitalists come in. Meehan, Blue Bottle's major shareholder, began his investment career by founding the Fresh & Wild food stores chain in the United Kingdom. He sold Fresh & Wild to Whole Foods in 2004 for $38 million. Meehan then founded Nude Skincare and developed his niche as an "eco-entrepreneur." Meehan is currently a partner in Greenmont Capital, a private equity company that specializes in organic and sustainable products, including the Blue Horizon "sustainable seafood" company and Bossa Nova Beverages (bought out by Sunny Delight in 2009).

The two other major Blue Bottle investors come out of Silicon Valley's venture capital network. Conrad founded several web companies and sold them to AOL and Yahoo for millions. Like Meehan, Conrad also has a food background. He began his career as an executive with Groupe Danone, the French food conglomerate, and was a director of Stonyfield Farms, the yogurt maker acquired by Groupe Danone to bolster that corporation's organic brand offerings. Conrad is now a partner with True Ventures, which owns stakes in 81 software and web companies. According to his biography on the True Ventures website, many of his small-tech investments end up being sold to global corporations, including Google and Microsoft. After buying his share of Blue Bottle, Conrad told *The Wall Street Journal*: "It's the Apple of coffee." As for Volpi, he's a partner at Index Ventures, a San Francisco private equity firm, and is known in Silicon Valley for his tenure at Cisco Systems, where he led the corporation's mergers and acquisitions efforts, buying out seventy small companies to assimilate into Cisco's product lines.

Meehan, Conrad, and Volpi join a larger movement of wealthy investors who are buying up small third wave coffee roasters. In 2011, the private equity firm TSG Consumer Partners purchased Portland's Stumptown Coffee. Also, Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey bought San Francisco's Sightglass Coffee last year. Even some of the big coffee chains are being snapped up; over the summer, Peet's Coffee was purchased by a private equity investor for $1 billion.

But Freeman insisted that this isn't what's in store for his company. In business press reports about the sale, he was quick to state that he's still in charge of Blue Bottle, and that the new investors are simply providing capital to pursue the original game plan. "Bryan Meehan, head of the new investor group, was a customer first," Freeman stated. "After finding out that we were on the same page about a lot of what we thought was important, it seemed like a great step to move forward with the investment."

When asked about speculation that Blue Bottle could become the next Peet's or Starbucks, Freeman said he appreciates the concern, but "the [S]tarbucks question is kind of insane, if you think about it. Peet's is a one-billion-dollar company, and Starbucks is worth even more than that. I would have to double the amount of cafes we have each and every year for something like 11 years to equal [S]tarbucks 16,000 cafes. Even looking at that last sentence makes me tired."

"The new plan is basically the old plan, only hopefully better," Freeman continued. "Improve how our coffee tastes, improve how we treat our customers, create more opportunities for existing employees within the company, create opportunities for new employees, bring our coffee to more people who want it, go home, and do it again tomorrow." ●

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Chris Pastena of Chop Bar is working on three new restaurants in Oakland

The Oakland '09ers

How several young tastemakers waded into the Great Recession, scored hip followings, and now have even more in store

By Mark C. Anderson

As pep talks go, the ones Lev Delany and Chris Pastena heard as they dove into the Great Recession to start their restaurant Chop Bar weren't exactly encouraging.

"People told us, 'You are complete dumbasses,'" Delany said.

Maybe they were crazy. Unemployment was high, disposable income was low. Banks were refusing to finance new restaurants outright, let alone ones on dark corners in the middle of a business desert.

"There was just really nothing going on — whether you're talking the area, the ability to get money to build a restaurant, or [the ability to] go out and get a job," Pastena recalled. "It just wasn't happening."

Temoor Noor and Adam Lamoreaux heard similar things as they waded into the swampy economy to open Grand Tavern, near Lake Merritt, and Linden Street Brewery, west of Jack London Square, respectively.

"People didn't believe it would work," Noor said. "And what hurt more is that they didn't believe in Oakland — they didn't think there was the community there to support it."

Both Noor and Lamoreaux brought with them tiny, tight-knit staffs that consisted entirely of family members. With the help of his mother and sister, Noor converted an old stucco house on Grand Avenue into a neighborhood bar with gourmet, Afghan tendencies. Lamoreaux enlisted the help of his wife — who also worked a day job. Over at Chop Bar there was a similarly bare-bones bravery.

"We came in with giant egos and lots of friends," Pastena said. "What we did wasn't the best way to open — we didn't have all the infrastructure, or enough refrigeration, or enough money to sustain a staff — but we decided it was the only way we could open."

Delany, Pastena, Noor, and Lamoreaux were part of a groundswell of calculating, mostly young, entrepreneurs who opened restaurants and drinking establishments in Oakland around 2009, including the owners of Sidebar, Bocanova, Camino, and CommonWealth Cafe and Pub. Lamoreaux has taken to calling them "The Oakland 09ers." Everyone from *The New York Times* to this very paper declared that the wave of new eateries would make Oakland the next Brooklyn. But that declaration was perhaps a bit optimistic.

Oakland didn't exactly become a dining destination, but it has become home to a blossoming restaurant and bar scene. The success of these upstarts owes less to fierce competition and hype than it does to collaboration, slow growth, and a sense of connection to their community.

"In some ways, it was an entrepreneur's dream," said Lamoreaux. "Buy low, know your neighbors, love your town. Now [investors] are paying a lot more."

Today, The Oakland 09ers — Delany, Pastena, Noor, Lamoreaux, and others — run thriving businesses and are partnering together on even more new projects for 2013. Currently in the works are a German-style beer garden on the Jack London waterfront, an Italian pasta-seafood spot in Jack London Square, a beer garden/restaurant at Linden Street Brewery, a tavern in the Tribune Tower, and a Yucatán-inspired bar/restaurant in Uptown. It may not constitute a culinary renaissance, but in a town that not long ago suffered from a dearth of quality establishments, what these entrepreneurs have achieved — and plan to achieve — seems just as revolutionary.

To help his parents and two younger sisters afford a $900 apartment in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, Temoor Noor sold fruit and flowers on a street corner — as an eight-year-old Afghan refugee. (Full disclosure: I've known Noor since high school.)

Noor learned two main things, among many, from that experience. First: After he asked his dad to move him from the street corner to the front of the hospital to spread more love and increase sales, Noor quickly uncovered his knack for commerce; and second, business, however hard-scrabble, beat conditions in Afghanistan, where Noor remembered being yanked back from the window by his mom as machine-gun-toting soldiers walked by.

Pastena and Lamoreaux endured their own challenges to find their business acumen. One day, Pastena abruptly abandoned his work in Manhattan's financial industry to attend the Culinary Institute of America, then crossed the country with $500 in his pocket, no place to stay, and a simple desire to find work in the food industry.

Lamoreaux endured six-month deployments in the Persian Gulf as a Naval petty officer on carriers in Operation Desert Fox. "[If] you go over almost four months without seeing land, [you] get a little cranky," he said. Eventually, he decided to apply his technical prowess and military discipline to the organization-demanding craft brew game.

In other words, Delany, Pastena, Noor, and Lamoreaux weren't easily intimidated. Besides, they saw more opportunity than insanity in entering the Oakland market.

"There hadn't been a production brewery [in the city] since 1959," Lamoreaux said. "If people wanted true Oakland beer, they'd have to call me."

"I knew the Chop Bar neighborhood," Pastena said. "There was no place to grab a quick bite or just a burger on a Wednesday night and hang out with your neighbors."

"We saw a chance to bring life and energy to a section of the neighborhood that didn't have it," Noor said, "to bring a convergence of people and community to meet, eat, talk, and relax; watch games, hang at a neighborhood spot."

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If anything, the tightened economy helped them. "Everybody was on a budget," Lamoreaux said as he sipped one of his Common Lagers at Chop Bar's half-circle bar. "You only have so many dimes you want to spend it on locals, not [California Pizza Kitchen] and Chipotle."

Luckily, the nonprofit Oakland Business Development Corporation believed in their experience and acumen, and financed their loans when traditional banks shrank away.

> "THE BEST PART AS AN ENTREPRENEUR OPENING IN THE WORST ECONOMY THE COMMUNITY'S SEEN IS IT SUBCONSCIOUSLY GAVE THEM HOPE," SAID LEMOREAUX. "THEY MAY NOT SAY IT OUT LOUD, BUT THEY'RE THINKING, 'IT CAN'T BE THAT BAD.'"

"I'm in awe of all these entrepreneurs," said OBDC Managing Director Felicia Pierson, whose first projects were helping Linden Street and Chop Bar. "A lot are young, a lot want to do something different, and want to contribute." (Noor financed Grand Tavern with money he had saved and additional funds from a college friend; the fact he and his mom didn't take salaries also helped.)

The success was Oakland's too. Linden Street, Grand Tavern, and Chop Bar have all made community involvement a priority. They have donated food and beer to various nonprofits, and Noor has hosted fundraisers at Grand Tavern. Community ties thickened, and their success triggered subtler stuff too.

"When they're willing to take a risk," Pierson said, "other entrepreneurs see that and are willing to take a risk. It creates organic growth."

Added Lamoreaux: "The best part as an entrepreneur opening in the worst economy the community's seen is it subconsciously gave them hope. They may not say it out loud, but they're thinking, 'It can't be that bad.'"

Since then, critics and locals alike have been eating up their stuff. (And drinking it, too.)

Chop Bar's easy energy — born of the casual attentive service, rounded bar, plank wood walls, and hanging vintage trombones — dovetails with affordable price points ($8.50 for a tasty *banh mi*) and rigorously sourced ingredients. Its brunches, beginning with baconfied Bloody Marys, *chilaquiles*, and omelets, were a hit in the beginning and remain booming.

Lamoreaux can't keep supply remotely in sync with ever-telescoping demand, and that's not just from bars and restaurants lapping at the door of his straight-from-the-1930s old Chicago-feeling shipping station of a craft beer mini factory. They want his signature Deep Roots Red, Burning Oak Black, and his finest work, the Common (a take on steam beer as complex as Oakland). Local restaurant owners are partnering with Lamoreaux to create their own Linden Street-created one-offs, like Bar de Tartine's amber Biere de Tartine and Hawker Fare's Superfly.

Grand Tavern has ridden its homey feel and ahead-of-the-trend drink menu — Noor hunted down a Prohibition-style ice maker in the south for its perfectly square cubes — to hatch a definitive neighborhood hub. The range of market-driven, gluten-free-friendly dishes — from moist roasted leeks to rich avocado salads and crispy green beans grown in school gardens — earned Chef Nate Berry-Stein an appearance on the cover of the *Express* this fall.

Their collaborations are increasing — as is their businesses. Noor is biking more kegs of Linden's carbon-neutral Oakland-only 'Town Lager to his bar on a specially designed Linden Street Brewers platform cruiser. Come warmer months, Chop Bar's whole-hog roasts at Linden Street will return, creating 350-person al fresco parties on Sunday afternoons with live music. Pastena and Noor, meanwhile, recognizing what they say is a common get-things-done spirit, are collaborating on several of the most devoutly Oakland restaurants to arrive since, well, 2009.

Tameer Noor financed Grand Tavern with money he had saved and with the help of a friend. [illegible]

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www.jeromecarlin.com
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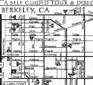

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Adam Lamoreaux is looking to add a restaurant at his Linden Street Brewery
Wes Sumner

The Tribune Tavern will be housed in the Tribune Tower
Mark C. Anderson

In addition to managing their own restaurant bars, Grand Tavern's Noor and Chop Bar's Pastena are working on no fewer than three major Oakland restaurant projects at once: The waterfront, Cinque Terre-inspired Italian lounge-restaurant Lungomare, the downtown tavern Tribune Tavern, and an as-yet unnamed Yucatán-focused food-and-tequila destination in the proposed mixed use "Hive" development at 22nd Street and Broadway. Meanwhile, Linden Street's Lamoreaux — who introduced Noor and Pastena when he learned both were looking for projects — is overhauling his entire brewery and adding a promising restaurant collaboration of his own. And Chop Bar partner Delaney has a plan in play for a German-style beer garden right on the waterfront, featuring afternoon barbecues and rotating taps. (See "Projects in the Pipeline for 2013" sidebar.)

When asked why he's taking on so many projects at once, Noor replied, "Why not?"

Well, there's the risk — the chance of undermining the success of his existing restaurant — not to mention what such an undertaking will do to his ability to sleep. But maybe the more accurate answer than "why not?" would be the same answer each of these guys gives when asked about their inspiration: Oakland.

The logic that worked for Chop Bar, Linden Street, and Grand Tavern is the same that drives these new projects: Look for what Oakland needs, and fulfill the need with solid principles carried out by a competent staff. Pastena recites his operating philosophy regularly: "Quality ingredients, perfectly executed."

"It's just something that resonates with us and what we're trying to accomplish," said Pastena. "I think [when] people are driven by profit and other things, that starts taking away from values."

That philosophy led Pastena and Delaney to look at how Chop Bar could offer conscious sourcing without sending its prices beyond the realm of its core clientele. What resulted elevated Pastena and Delaney's reputation for craftiness: Pastena campaigned stubbornly for more wineries to sell him wine by the barrel, saving space, money, and packaging

DISTANT LOCAL LOVE

The job Tom Henderson has given himself is jobs — for as many people in Oakland as possible.

Almost exactly a year ago he bought the city's most iconic edifice, The Tribune Tower, with that in mind. He plans to employ as many as 2,000 people at the CallSocket call center it houses.

"We will create the most new jobs in Oakland over the next few years," Henderson said.

His fierce belief in the East Bay is in line with the local loyalty of his 5 Terraces partners, Temoor Noor and Chris Pastena. That the new restaurants he's helping fund — Lungomare, Tribune Tavern, and an as-yet-unnamed project in Uptown — employ scores of people only sweetens the cannoli.

"He's creating three hundred or four hundred jobs in next couple months," Pastena said. "Beyond that, the sky's the limit. That's inspiring me, knowing that I'm part of that."

Ironically, though, in order to do well by his strict local spirit, Henderson, a third-generation local, has to deal with faraway forces — but maybe that's only appropriate for a man who made his mint importing things like tiger shrimp for Avalon Bay Foods Inc. A big chunk of his investment capital comes from a largely unknown Immigrant Investor Program known as EB-5. In it, wealthy prospective immigrants must sink $1 million or more in US communities with low employment rates to earn a US visa, which in turn can help qualify immigrants for a green card. In communities as hard up for jobs as Oakland, qualifying investments start lower at $500,000.

Henderson's ample contacts in China from his importing past, paired with his extensive local network, acts as an ideal conduit to finding places that can benefit from those regulated investments here.

In other words, he's just the man for the job(s).

— Mark C. Anderson

while walking the wine menu in ways he couldn't before — and creating real demand for bigger-format wines. Delany started doing in-house whole-hog butchery and charcuterie like cured fatback and smoked tenderloin, saving more money in the process. The surging drink program stocked rare spirits and offered specific and stylized drinks, allowing bartenders to manage without a big back bar they couldn't fit anyway.

Recently, Pastena identified a need for a defining downtown tavern, hence the Tribune Tavern, which is due in March. He also believes the Jack London waterfront remains woefully underused, hence all the more incentive for a place that will enthusiastically optimize large patios with trellises and heat lamps and coastal Italian fare that matches the climate and local ingredients nicely.

At the Tribune Tavern, customers will be greeted by a big U-shaped bar, and a lounge area will beckon with a tall ten-top table and old palm wood lounge chairs. "People are going to be raring to sit in those chairs," Pastena predicted.

The restaurant is being funded in part by local businessman Tom Henderson, whose group of investors purchased the Tribune Tower, where the Tribune Tavern will be located, in December 2011. Henderson has partnered with Noor and Pastena to form 5 Terraces, a restaurant group that's behind the Tribune Tavern, Lungomare, and Hive concepts. (For more on Henderson, see the sidebar "Distant Local Love.")

"Chris [Pastena] and I have discussed doing restaurants for several years, and the Tribune Tavern was a perfect fit to partner together," Henderson said. "His ideas on fresh foods and the creativity was exactly what we were looking for. This is the first of many restaurants to come."

Elements like a tin ceiling, communal bar-area tables, and roomy booths will be intentionally visible from outside, and large windows will slide open to create the kind of indoor-outdoor environment that gives Chop Bar its neighborhoody vibe. The bar area will blend more into the private dining sanctuary behind it, and the customized kitchen will be designed to allow for in-house butchering and bread making. The menu will take gourmet pub fare and spark it with the same relentless sourcing and creative twists that have been Chop Bar hallmarks.

Far less work will be required with the Lungomare project, which will take over the space currently occupied by Miss Pearl's Restaurant and Lounge, which shutters in December. The restaurant is pretty much ready to go, but Pastena and Noor still need to hire and train staff, update paint, furniture, and flatware, pimp out the patios, and revamp signage. They've already tapped high-profile people in the business to head up the restaurant's leadership, and are giving them full control to develop the place's identity in their own way. That means important creative control for Executive Chef Craig DiFonzo, who moves from Napa Valley, where he was a chef for Francis Ford Coppola Presents. Saeed Amini is on board as wine director after a recent stint at Ritz-Carlton Half Moon Bay. Longtime Pastena friend and colleague Rob Soviero — a restaurant veteran who has opened restaurants around the country — will act as general manager.

The prospective menu will hone in on fresh pastas made in a special on-site pasta room, rustic seafood, regional pizzas, and other dishes to pair with well-curated Italian wines and Northern California takes on Italian varietals.

Meanwhile, over on Linden Street, Lamoreaux is talking with Commis mastermind and fellow Oakland-er James Syhabout about putting together a restaurant in the beautiful 2,000-square-foot space with brick walls and old pine floors next to his tasting room as early as spring. Oakland's bearded minister of beer is also aiming to ramp up production toward his ultimate goal of 20,000 kegs a year (he's currently about one-ninth of the way there) by expanding into a second existing tank room and spilling tasting-room action onto his 1,500-square-foot outdoor landing. Across all his various endeavors, Lamoreaux insists on one consistent quality.

"You will not be successful if you're not 100-percent authentic," he said. "This town sniffs a fake."

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PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE FOR 2013

Brotzeit Lokal

Chop Bar's Lev Delany is among the backers of Brotzeit, German for "snack," which will sit on the waterfront at 1000 Embarcadero at 10th Avenue. An adjacent marina will allow boats to dock right there, including a forty-foot delta cruiser owned by Delany's partners and available for bay tours. Simple and traditional German fare — house-made spaetzels, sauerkraut, and seasonal pickles — will pair with twelve drafts and a large selection of bottles steered toward Bavarian-style medium-bodied lagers (think more malt than hops). Highlights will include a house Linden Street Bavarian mini kegs tapped tableside, and afternoon barbecues on the estuary-view patio. Tentative opening date is April 21.

Linden Street Beer Garden

While the 19th-century brick brewery adds tanks to a second high-ceilinged brew room that will expand production significantly, Adam Lamoreaux is planning an accompanying overhaul of the tasting room and build-out of the adjacent room and patio into a restaurant, meaning retail sales will also arc upward. Lamoreaux is in talks with James Syhabout of Commis to introduce a concept similar to Bar Tartine in the beautiful brick-and-pine-floor space, where rotating chefs will give the menu a completely new feel every few years. The tasting room will spill onto the generous decks in front and borrow low-labor-involved foods from the restaurant. Lamoreaux hopes to have permits approved by January.

Lungomare

The restaurant, which means "seafront" in Italian, is fitting for the spacious waterside spot currently occupied by Miss Pearl's Restaurant and Lounge in Jack London Square. A project of Chop Bar's Chris Pastena and Grand Tavern's Tomoot Noor (under the restaurant group 5 Terrones), Lungomare will seize upon the setting with better-optimized patios (wind breaks and heaters can go a long way). Executive Chef Craig DiFonzo's menu, meanwhile, will draw its inspiration from the coastal Liguria region of Italy using local ingredients. Napoleon-style pizzas, smoked meats, seafood stews, and pasta made in a special room on the premises will be flanked by Italian wines and California-grown Italian varietals curated by Saeed Amini. The terms of the lease dictate doors must swing open for dinner February 7.

Tribune Tavern

Downtown gets its long overdue meeting place, built around a welcoming U-shaped bar, sliding windows that open onto the sidewalk, and casual fare like shepherd's pie, a robust burger, Reuben sandwiches, and big salads giving a twist by way of kitchen creativity and inventive sourcing. Another Pastena/Noor/5 Terrones project, it's being envisioned as a place where business meetings happen at lunch and after-work cocktails are sipped at happy hour, but also where Oakland's diversity congregates. Construction is well underway with about a four-month timeline until the taps flow.

TBA at "The Hive"

If all goes according to plan, 5 Terrones will give the Uptown a tequila mezcal bar at the greatly anticipated, albeit officially unnamed, development at 22nd Street and Broadway. Some two hundred tequilas and fifty mezcals will be offered, plus breakfast, lunch, and dinner options that will lean toward the Yucatán. There's also a profoundly open layout design in the works, and hopes for a wood-fired oven. "It should be fun," Pastena said. "We get to lay it out however we want." While this project remains in the purely planning stage, Pastena signed the lease last week.

—Mark C. Anderson

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There's a circular theme to this story: People are again calling Pastena nuts for what he's attempting.

"I've been called crazy by a lot of people," he said. "But it's nice when people close to me in the industry say 'That's insane, but if anyone can pull it off, you can.'"

There are five main reasons he will. He listed the first two: "We can do anything we want if we have a good team and finances." He added a third and fourth as an aside: clear roles and communication.

The fifth was more implicit and may explain what will make the other pending restaurants successful as well. This isn't another hyped "Oakland renaissance" story — these projects won't work because they promise to make Oakland a great new food city, or because they'll introduce some unprecedented fusion of flavors. They'll work because, like Linden Street, Chop Bar, and Grand Tavern, they're giving Oakland the fundamentals it needs (and deserves): namely, what it used to have — a sturdy waterfront spot, a downtown tavern, a worthy brewery/restaurant, and a community across venues. These guys get it.

"I've always told people we're not trying to reinvent anything," Lamoreaux said. "We're trying to remember. For us it's been easy to embrace Oakland's amazing history, especially 1890 to 1920, looking at what worked in that timeframe and putting in a modern twist — what breweries meant to Oakland, why they were here, and who they served. All we have to do is remember and embrace it."

Pastena sounded a similar note. "It's not about trying to strike when the iron's hot," he said. "It's about great places for people in Oakland to enjoy. What we're about is Oakland, the people, what is already happening. We all have a passion for the city itself."

So call him crazy if you must. But make sure you call him — and the rest of The Oakland owners — crazy about Oakland, too. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

ARTS & CULTURE

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

St. George's Jörg Rupf, Lance Winters, and Dave Smith

Thirty Years Under the Influence

Celebrating the distiller with the liquid courage to change the way we drink.

The year was 1982, and the alcohol landscape in America was looking pretty bleak — it was, as Lance Winters, master distiller at St. George Spirits dubbed it, "a white-wine spritzer world." The spirits industry was dominated by a few big-name players, and if people were drinking cocktails at all, they leaned toward those concocted to mask the flavor of the booze. Hence the wine coolers.

Around the same time, a man named Jörg Rupf came to Berkeley from Germany to get a law degree. Like many adults in Europe, Rupf was used to enjoying *eau de vie* — a distilled beverage made from fruits and typically served as a digestif — but was shocked to find that Californians, with their abundance of amazing fruit, didn't even know what *eau de vie* was. So he decided to start making it himself.

"It was a pretty crazy concept at the time, because no one was really making spirits that were made to taste like what they came from, let alone making spirits to taste like spirits at all," said Winters. "It was a concept completely foreign to our culture."

Gradually, fueled by the public's growing interest in quality food, Rupf's "crazy idea" took off. St. George Spirits would end up being the pioneer of the so-called "craft distilling" movement — which now includes hundreds of producers — and its products would eventually grow to include single-malt whiskey, gin, Hangar One vodka, and as of the 2007 lift on a nearly century-long ban, absinthe.

On Saturday, November 30, the distillery deservedly celebrates both thirty years in business and the success of the craft spirits movement at large with a party at the St. George distillery, a World War II-era airplane hangar in Alameda (2601 Monarch St.).

The event will include a behind-the-scenes tour showing how the spirits are made, followed by a panel discussion featuring Rupf, Winters, and St. George's "mad alchemist," Dave Smith, in conversation with other artisans from the spirits world. During the talk, guests will receive a "St. George timeline" of thematic cocktails — from a pear brandy to a single-malt whiskey to a terroir gin — that represent the evolution of St. George's craft production, all brought to the present through a sneak peek of St. George's new thirtieth-anniversary whiskey release.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served throughout and guests are invited to stay for more cocktails at an official afterparty and even an opportunity to gaze, glassy-eyed, at the distillery's famous shark statue. 7–10 p.m. $75. Ages 21 and up. 510-769-1601 or StGeorgeSpirits.com

— Azeen Ghorayshi

ATTRACTIONS

38th Annual Lighted Yacht Parade: The Encinal Yacht Club and Oakland Yacht Club present this festive event featuring highly decorated boats sailing along the Oakland Estuary. Sat., Dec. 8, 5:30 p.m., free. Jack London Square, 98 Broadway, [illegible]

A Holiday [illegible]: Tour the historic 57-room mansion, enjoy [illegible] "holiday [illegible]," and take horse-drawn carriage rides. Kids can enjoy pony rides, holiday face-painting, crafts, and cookies with Santa. Check online [illegible] for full details. Starting Dec. 1, Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Christmas through Dec. 16. $7-$4. [illegible] Estate, 2900 Peralta Oaks Ct., Berkeley. 510-615-5555. [illegible].com.

California [illegible] Festival: [illegible] the wildlife fair, learn about California's [illegible] and the organizations working to [illegible] them. The National Wildlife Federation [illegible] [illegible] theater presentations and a holiday gift shop that supports wildlife conservation work. Thu., Nov. 29, 5-8 p.m., free with museum admission. [illegible] Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].org.

Downtown Berkeley Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration: Enjoy [illegible] and hot chocolate, take a picture with Santa, listen to [illegible] music sung by UC Berkeley a cappella [illegible], and join the Mayor in lighting the [illegible] tree in Downtown Berkeley BART Plaza. Fri., Nov. 30, 5:30-6:30 p.m., free.

[illegible] Village [illegible] Holiday [illegible]: Dozens of Montclair Village businesses stay open late and offer visitors [illegible] and discounts, featuring Santa, live music and historic performances, and other entertainment. Sat., Dec. 1, 6-8:30 p.m., free.

Snow [illegible]: Enjoy snow flurries every hour shooting 15 feet into the air from atop life-sized snowman [illegible] throughout the Square. Dec. 1-31, 5-9 p.m., free. Jack London Square, 98 Broadway, Oakland.

[illegible] on Ice: Check [illegible]SkateWalnutCreek.com for special holiday ice-skating hours. Mondays-Thursdays, 12-8 p.m., Fridays, 12-10 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Christmas through Jan. 13, $18-15. Holiday Ice Rink in Civic Park, 1375 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-[illegible]. [illegible]SkateWalnutCreek.com.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & FIESTAS

[illegible] Holiday Skate & Stroll: Enjoy an [illegible] [illegible] or a four-wheel ride plus skateboarding demonstrations, roving [illegible], lights & decorations, and Santa. Sat., Dec. 1, 12-4 p.m., Sun., Dec. 2, 12-4 p.m., free.

[illegible] Faire at the Oakland Zoo: Enjoy holiday song and dance presented by the California Revels. Sat., Dec. 1, 1 p.m., free with admission. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

[illegible] Point Antiques Faire: With more than 800 antique dealers. First Sunday of every month, 6 a.m.-3:30 p.m., $5-$15. AlamedaPointAntiquesFaire.com. Alameda Point Antiques Faire, 2900 Navy Way, Alameda. 510-522-7500, AlamedaPointAntiquesFaire.com.

[illegible] People's Community [illegible]: A monthly event at People's Community Market's community [illegible] campaign featuring live entertainment, keynote speakers, food demonstrations, and [illegible]. Thu., Nov. 29, 1 p.m., free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Fungus Fair: See displays on edible and medicinal fungi, dyeing yarn with mushrooms, and cooking demonstrations. Sat., Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun., Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., free with museum admission. [illegible] Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132, LawrenceHallofScience.org.

[illegible] Dickens Christmas Fair: An [illegible] Victorian Christmas event, spanning over three acres of old-world English Christmas décor and more than 700 costumed players. Saturdays, Sundays. Continues through Dec. 23. $25 general, $12 kids. Cow Palace, Geneva Ave., San Francisco. 415-[illegible]. [illegible].com.

Jack London Square Gussy Up for the Holidays: The annual tree lighting [illegible] [illegible] and live musical performances by Radio Disney recording artist Amber Lily, pop [illegible] Emme, rising star Jeremy Thurber, and the Heights Youth Marching Band from Oakland. Fri., Nov. 30, 5-7 p.m., free. Jack London Square Pavilion, 98 Broadway Ave., Oakland.

Oakland Children's Holiday [illegible]: See your favorite storybook stars, floats, marching bands and [illegible] parade. More than 100,000 spectators line the streets of downtown Oakland to view the holiday [illegible] from 11th to 20th Streets on Broadway. Sat., Dec. 1, 2 p.m., free.

[illegible] Holiday Tree Lighting and Holiday Stroll: [illegible] performances by local school [illegible] and Santa Claus ceremoniously lighting a giant tree in the plaza. Enjoy photos with Santa and walk the [illegible] to visit [illegible] throughout the evening. Sat., Dec. 1, 5-7 p.m., free. Bay Street Plaza, 41st St. and [illegible] Ave., Oakland.

HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SEXUALITY

East Bay Stretch Pain Group: Call Susan Malley at 510-456-3178 or e-mail Susan-Malley@yahoo.com for more information. First and third Tuesday of every month, 3-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017, OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] Happy Hour: Toys for Good! A Good Vibes sex educator will introduce you to sex toys for their [illegible]. Wed., Dec. 5, 8:30-10:30 p.m., free. Good Vibrations [illegible], 3219 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-788-[illegible], GoodVibes.com.

Lower Back Stretch Class: For ages 50 and up, [illegible] required for floor exercises. Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m., $3 suggested. Oakland. South Hayward Senior Center, 2000 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-981-5879

The Principle of Mutual Support: A workshop exploring the Shambhala principle of Mutual Support. Sun., Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., $90-$115 for first-time [illegible]. The [illegible] Center, 6876 Claremont Ave., Oakland. 510-428-0987. [illegible].com.

KIDS

Alameda Ice Skating and Tree Lighting: [illegible] rink, holiday games, and crafts for kids. Stick around for the Mayor's tree lighting ceremony at 5:30 p.m. Sat., Dec. 1, 12-5 p.m., free. Oakland City Hall [illegible], 950 W Mall Sq., Alameda. 510-747-7400, [illegible].

Community Education Forum: [illegible]: The Oakland [illegible] their [illegible] first ever [illegible] inviting a space of high school and middle school [illegible] to share their experiences and discuss the space [illegible] adventure to [illegible] and [illegible]. Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 1-4:30 p.m., free. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

Holidays on the Farm: See a pair of live reindeer and visit a Berkeley Santa in a [illegible] sleigh. There will also be games and [illegible] making, and food for sale. Sat., Dec. 1, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sat., Dec. 8, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Bus. Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. 925-973-3280

The Last Reef 3-D: A thrilling underwater journey that shows you the [illegible] mysteries of a reef ecosystem. Through Jan. 6, 2013. $4 after admission. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132, LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Oakland Zoo's ZooLights: Highlights [illegible] [illegible] family-themed [illegible] a night into adventure on the Oakland Express train, Christmas tree in the Children's Zoo, a light show, and pictures with Santa Claus. Nov. 24 and 25, Nov. 30-Dec. 31, 5:30-9 p.m., $8. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

SNEAK PEEK: A First Look at Science: Check out new exhibits in the Gallery of California Natural Sciences before the unveiling next June. Sun., Dec. 2, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., free. Oakland Museum of CA, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

Snow Day in the [illegible] [illegible]: Bring your sleds and boots and play in the snow in the Andronico's [illegible]. Visit the Snow Queen, make holiday crafts, and enjoy holiday [illegible] and hot cocoa. Sun., Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. Adventures, 1550 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2942. [illegible].com.

Space Junk 3-D: Take a trip to outer space to learn more about the space junk orbiting to Earth's orbit, through Jan. 6, 2013. $4 after admission. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132, LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Star Light, Star Bright: Discover the different forms of visible light from star light to candle light, then make your own lantern with all the colors of the spectrum. Tue., Dec. 4, 10 a.m., 12:30 & 3 p.m., free with museum admission. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

Video Game Programming for Kids: A class for kids over age 12 to learn how to program, create simple games, and better game development skills. Saturdays, 10 a.m., noon, free. The Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment, 610 16th St., Oakland. TheMADE.org.

PETS

Dog Park Meeting: A City [illegible] meeting regarding the proposed dog park at Lake Merritt. Tue., Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m., free. Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

[illegible] Chanukah Fair: With guided [illegible] folk dancing, live music, [illegible] and [illegible]. Featuring the [illegible] and [illegible] from around the world. Sun., Dec. 2, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Congregation Netivot Shalom, 1316 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-9447, Netivot-Shalom.org.

International Nativity Exhibit: Features selected nativities from the collection of Judy Davis, through Jan. 6, 2013, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free. The Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland. 510-271-1930, CTLcathedral.org.

Iyengar Yoga: A drop-in class for all levels with techniques for relaxation, healing, flexible bodies, and revitalizing body and mind. Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon, $15. Tibetan Nyingma Institute, 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812, Nyingma.org.

Public Sitting: With spiritual [illegible] Peter Brown. First and third Wednesday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., $10-$15. [illegible].org. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227, HillsideClub.org.

PICKS

Children's Holiday Parade

jeremy/flickr (cc)

Oakland Children's Holiday Parade

Take today's weekend level of excitement about parades, jack it up an absurd [illegible], and you're set for the America's Children's Holiday Parade, happening this Saturday, Dec. 1 in Downtown Oakland. The parade will feature a veritable who's who of cartoon and storybook favorites — from Clifford to Wild Thing to Strawberry Shortcake — as well as giant balloons of timeless holiday stars including Rudolph, the Gingerbread Man, and Magnificent the Snowman. Musical accompaniment for all that walking includes an impressive list of local high-school marching bands, as well as performances by Radio Disney star Amber Lily, pop singer Emme, and the Bieberesque Jeremy Thurber. Come early: according to the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, more than 100,000 people are expected to attend. 2 p.m., free. AmericasHoliday-Parade.com *— Azeen Ghorayshi*

XXX: Peculiar Stag Films

As long as [illegible] has been, sex has been sexy for all of time. On Saturday, Dec. 1, take a trip through the modern age of erotic art at Studio Quercus (385 26th St., Oakland), which is opening its vault of historic films to the public to show selected snippets of history made between 1930 and 1970. The movie night will complement the studio's current art exhibit, "The Nude 2012," and will feature characteristic films from each decade — ranging black-and-whites from the Thirties and Forties, instructive footage for mechanical auto-erotic apparatuses from the Fifties, and fleshy Seventies classics. All will be revealed, as the event is not for the faint of heart. Ages eighteen and up. 8 p.m., $10. 510-452-4670 or StudioQuercus.com *— A.G.*

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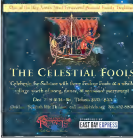

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SALES, SWAPS, PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

1st Annual Oakland Holiday Bazaar Sponsored by the Oakland Asian Cultural Center and the Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce. Featuring local artisans, cookmakers, designers, crafters and more. Sat., Dec. 1, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., free. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.cc.

2012 Senior Santa Holiday Bazaar Featuring holiday crafts, paintings, etchings, jewelry, prints, books, book bags, [illegible] and more at low prices. Food available for purchase. The Holiday Bazaar is a fundraiser to support the Albany Senior Center. Sat., Dec. 1, 11 a.m., free. Albany Senior Center, 846 Masonic Ave., Albany. 510-524-9122.

40th Anniversary Art and Crafts Sale An art show benefiting The Psychotherapy Institute. Sun., Dec. 2, 12-5 p.m., free. The Psychotherapy Institute, 2232 Carleton St., Berkeley. 510-548-2250. TPIBerkeley.org.

42nd Annual Berkeley Potters' Guild Holiday Sale Their 42nd Annual Holiday Sale featuring a ceramic Alameda Brush, the theme "Show Your Stripes." Sat., Dec. 1, 12-5 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 2, 12-5 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 8, 12-5 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 9, 12-5 p.m. Through Dec. 24, 12-5 p.m., free. Berkeley Potters Guild, 731 Jones St., Berkeley. 510-524-7871. BerkeleyPotters.com.

(Affordable) Art From The Heart Featuring new or recent work from all of the artists currently working at MAD Art Center, all priced from $5-$150. Opening reception Nov. 30 [illegible], featuring a live paint reception. Through Dec. 28, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., free. MAD Art Center, 550 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. MADArt.org.

Albany Annual School Arts & Crafts Fair Featuring goods from over 70 artists, crafted goods, and music. All proceeds go to the Albany Middle School PTA. Sun., Dec. 2, 12-3 p.m., free. Albany Middle School, 1259 Brighton Ave., Albany. 510-558-0541. www.albany.k12.ca.us/amms/.

[illegible] School Alameda Mixer & Fundraiser An annual holiday fundraiser [illegible] to benefit the [illegible] Council, the Alameda Food Bank, and Toys for Tots. Featuring live entertainment by DJ [illegible] Bay, a buffet by The Palomino Brothers, [illegible]. Sat., Dec. 1, 5:30-8:30 p.m., $10 (advance), $15 at door. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060. Rhythmix.org.

[illegible] Pop-Up Holiday Shop, Dec. 1 and 2 Featuring handmade gifts by local makers including blown glass, vintage [illegible], jewelry, photography, assemblage art, glass jewelry, handmade soap, artisanal [illegible] and perfumes, and more. Wednesdays-Sundays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 2, free. The Village Shops, 10300 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito.

[illegible] Featuring over 200 local vendors, a new "Underground Market" of food gifts, dozens of DIY workshops, and a raffle. Food made by ForageSF available for purchase. Sat., Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Concourse Exhibition Center, 635 8th St., San Francisco. 415-487-3080.

The Thrown Challenge A special quiz night to raise funds for Team Sokongo's Alameda Run. See Team Sokongo [illegible] for more details. Tue., Dec. 4, 6-10 p.m., $15. The Alley, 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-444-8505.

East Bay [illegible] for the Oakland Zoo Enjoy a Somar Specialty Zoo Cocktail and meet some of the animals from the Zoo Mobile. 15% of proceeds benefit the Oakland Zoo. Thu., Nov. 29, 6-9 p.m., free. Somar Bar & Lounge, 1727 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. SomarBar.com.

Food Pantry Holiday Benefit A holiday benefit featuring over 20 food vendors, including Oaktown Spices, [illegible], Sweet Coffee, and more. There will be also be gifts and take-home [illegible] at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 500 De Haro St. in SF. Sat., Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Donations requested.

Holiday Gift & Art Sale [illegible] for [illegible] along with handmade wares from artists. Landscaping, kids' [illegible] and more. Sat., Dec. 1, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 2, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., free. Center of Art and Science, 550 [illegible] Avenue, Oakland.

Holiday Pop-Up Shop: The Berkeley Art Studio's Annual Holiday Sale Featuring paintings, photographs, and jewelry. Proceeds support local artists and the [illegible]. Through Dec. 31, 10-10 p.m., free. The ASUC Berkeley Art Studio, Lower Sproul Plaza, Berkeley. 510-642-6-60. ArtStudio.Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Annual Square Holiday Pop Up Featuring men's and women's [illegible], kids items, crafts [illegible], local art, and more, all made by [illegible] handmade [illegible] Alameda for opportunity. Fri., Nov. 30, 5-9 p.m., free. Jack London Square Pavilion, 98 Broadway Ave., Oakland.

Palestinian Handmade Gift Bazaar 10th Annual event featuring beautifully crafted works from Palestine, the Middle East [illegible]. Sat., Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 2, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Middle East Children's Alliance, 1101 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-548-0542. www.mecaforpeace.org.

Pass the Breakfast & Holiday Crafts Fair A breakfast fundraiser and craft fair. Sat., Dec. 1, 8:45 a.m.-1 p.m., $5 suggested donation. Montalvin Manor School, 1015 Carlson Blvd., Richmond. 510-524-5600. [illegible]

[illegible] Art [illegible] Holiday Open Studio [illegible] art on display and for sale, with special holiday [illegible], Saturdays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Continues through Dec. 15, free. [illegible] Studio, 2860 Union St., [illegible]. 510-832-8363.

Richmond Art Center Annual Holiday Arts Festival This year's "Vintage Edition" will celebrate the festival's half-century mark with a 1950s theme. 60s-inspired dress is encouraged. The festival will feature art and vintage vendors, live music, a [illegible] art [illegible], craft market, and kids' art [illegible]. Sat., Dec. 2, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., free. Richmond Art Center, 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-620-6772. TheRichmondArtCenter.org.

Swap Shop & Toy Drive for Foster Kids Through Dec. 16, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. [illegible] 2000 Fisher Pass Rd., [illegible]. 925-685-8497.

The [illegible] Holiday Salon: Celebration of Craftswomen Showcasing the work of more than 150 [illegible] artists. Also includes a [illegible] lounge, live art [illegible], and a special Women in Film program. At Fort Mason's Festival Pavilion. Sat., Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fort Mason, Marina Blvd. and Buchanan St., San Francisco. 415-345-7575. FortMason.org.

Yelp's Fifty Under $50 Holiday Pop-Up With more than 40 top-rated retailers, local designers and food artisans. Every guest who makes a purchase will enjoy complimentary cocktails, dessert, and more. Sun., Dec. 2, 2-6 p.m., free. Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-809-0900. BrowerCenter.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

17th Annual Winterfest The 17th annual Winterfest [illegible] party benefit & art show. An evening of Alameda food, music, and handmade beverages. Sun., Dec. 2, 6:30-10 p.m., $20-65. AMC [illegible], 101 Fourth St., San Francisco. (800)370-3264. [illegible]

2012 [illegible] Annual Awards Honoring John Nakamura of Albany [illegible], Soldiers and [illegible], a young [illegible] of Albany High. Tickets include dinner and a drink. Holiday at AlbanyChamber.org. Thu., Nov. 29, 5:30-8 p.m., $28. [illegible], 911 San Pablo Ave., Albany.

Egyptology Talk, Holiday Party, and Book Sale The American Research Center in Egypt's holiday party and book sale, featuring arts and crafts by Egyptian artisans and a talk by [illegible] of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago. [illegible] Sun., Dec. 2, 1:30-4 p.m., free. [illegible] Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

Piedmont Neighbors and Newcomers Annual Holiday Party An evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and conversation with neighbors and friends new and old. Event [illegible] at a residence; directions provided with registration. Email piedmontnn@gmail.com or call 510-684-1977. Sat., Dec. 1, 6:30-10:30 p.m.

Playland After Dark: Grown-up Game Night Play free pinball, arcade, carnival, and [illegible] games. No kids or babies. Second Saturday of every month, 6-10 p.m.; Last Thursday of every month, 6-10 p.m., $10. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.org.

Snowvember NightLife Celebrate the opening of 'Tis the Season for Science. Featuring [illegible] snow flurries, a pair of live reindeer, [illegible] snow [illegible], and music by the [illegible]. Thu., Nov. 29, 6-10 p.m. California Academy of Sciences, 55 Music Concourse Dr., San Francisco. 415-379-8000. CalAcademy.org.

Suds, Snacks, and Socialism Discussing the European [illegible]. Hosted by the Alameda County Peace and Freedom Party and [illegible]. Sat., Dec. 1, 2-4:30 p.m., free. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082. StarryPloughPub.com.

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SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

10th Anniversary of Annual [illegible] Sustainable Program Join [illegible] Alumni [illegible] to celebrate the history of the environmental program, [illegible] a lecture entitled "Learning to Live in [illegible]" and enjoy a potluck dinner. Visit [illegible] for more details. Sat., Dec. 1, 12:30-7:30 p.m., free. Merritt College Environmental Center, [illegible], 12500 Campus Drive, Oakland. 510-434-3840.

Holiday Hustle A 5K, 10K, or 15K race through Alameda after dark. Sat., Dec. 1, 4:30-8 p.m., $5-30. Frank Otis Elementary School, 3010 Fillmore St., Alameda. 510-748-4013.

Planting Annual [illegible] Volunteer for Save the Bay's winter planting season helping to benefit the Bay by planting native seedlings. Visit SaveSFBay.org/volunteer to sign up. Wed., Dec. 5, 1-4 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-noon, free. Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline, Doolittle Dr. and Swan Way, Oakland. 510-562-1373. EBParks.org/Parks/MLK.

Sea View Trail A challenging five-mile [illegible] hike [illegible]. Email [illegible] for more details. Fri., Nov. 30, 10 a.m., free. Tilden Regional Park, Entrance off [illegible] and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. 510-843-2137. EBParks.org/Parks/Tilden.

Snowcamping Basics REI snowcamping specialist Andy Mikula will [illegible] you about tents, snow shelters, and sleeping bags/pads for snowcamping. Find out how to select and set up camp, layer your clothing for maximum warmth, cook nutritious meals, stay properly hydrated, etc. [illegible] Thu., Nov. 29, 7-8:30 p.m., free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Oakland Raiders vs. Cleveland Browns Sun., Dec. 2, 1:25 p.m., $20-95. O.co Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Coliseum.com.

Raiders Art [illegible] [illegible] artwork displayed in the Silver and Black Gallery at the Raiders vs. Cleveland Browns. Sun., Dec. 2, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. [illegible] O.co Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Coliseum.com. ●

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

Holidays WITH THE Symphony

PINK MARTINI WITH THE SFS

TONIGHT: NOV 28 7:30PM
NOV 29 7:30PM

Pink Martini performs with the SFS in this cosmopolitan, multilingual concert featuring the band's hits, holiday classics, and more.

CHRIS BOTTI WITH THE SFS

NOV 30–DEC 1 7:30PM

Swing to the sophisticated sounds of America's best-selling jazz instrumentalist as he performs with the SFS.

DECK THE HALL

DEC 2 11AM & 3PM

Treat your children to the festive concert featuring the music of the season performed by the SFS and special guests.

PETER AND THE WOLF
WITH NARRATOR OLYMPIA DUKAKIS

DEC 8 1PM & 4PM

Delight your children with the annual presentation of *Peter and the Wolf* narrated by Olympia Dukakis.

COLORS OF CHRISTMAS

DEC 10–12 8PM

Grammy® award winner Peabo Bryson, Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr., James Ingram, and Stephanie Mills perform an evening of pop hits and Christmas favorites.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

DEC 13–15 7:30PM

Handel's *Messiah* holds a place of reverence in the canon for its universal appeal and timeless expression.

COUNT BASIE ORCHESTRA

DEC 16 7:30PM

The celebrated Count Basie Orchestra leads a sensational evening of swing, bringing the big sounds of big band to Davies Symphony Hall!

JUDY COLLINS WITH THE SFS

DEC 19 7:30PM

Grammy® award-winning Judy Collins showcases her legendary vocal talents performing ballads from her vast songbook along with special holiday classics.

AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING WITH NATALIE COLE

DEC 20 7:30PM

Natalie Cole, along with the SFS, performs audience favorites and holiday hits in an evening of sophisticated classics.

MARIACHI SOL DE MÉXICO DE JOSE HERNANDEZ

DEC 21 7:30PM

Hear holiday favorites from the US and Mexico, traditional Mexican music, and more, as these blazing performers take the stage.

THE SNOWMAN

DEC 22 11AM

Don't miss the charming animated film *The Snowman* as the SFS plays the score.

'TWAS THE NIGHT

DEC 22 7:30PM • DEC 23 4PM • DEC 24 2PM

Delight in a warm and intimate program, sing along with your favorite holiday tunes, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASQUERADE BALL WITH THE SFS

DEC 31 9PM

Doors open at 8pm • Concert at 9pm

Toast to the joy of a new year at the most glamorous party in the City and add a little sparkle to your night.

SFSYMPHONY.ORG/HOLIDAY (415) 864-6000

TICKETS START AT **$15***

[illegible] Davies Symphony Hall. Programs, artists, and prices subject to change. Subject to availability.
[illegible] Mon–Fri 10am–6pm, Sat noon–6pm, Sun 2 hours prior to concerts. [illegible] Grove St between Van Ness and Franklin.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30th | 5-7PM
CELEBRATE THE LIGHTING OF THE 57 FOOT TREE!

JACK LONDON SQUARE
LIGHTS UP
FOR THE HOLIDAYS

PREVIEW
A float from the America's Children's Holiday Parade which takes place on December 1st

MEET
Characters – Curious George, Garfield, Care Bears, Moshi Monsters and more! Live Reindeer

ENJOY
Musical performances by Radio Disney recording artists, Amber Lily, Jeremy Thurber and pop sensation Emme
Heights Youth Marching Band from Jamaica
The Tap Dancing Holiday Trees
The Strolling Puppet Theater

DINE
Enjoy great food at Jack London Square restaurants

PLAY
Decorate cookies
Make ornaments and crafts
Dress up at the Oakland Ballet's dress up station

SHOP
Shop local from 5pm – 9pm at the Holiday Pop Up
to benefit Wardrobe for Opportunity

DONATE
Toys for Tots – Mayor's Toy Drive
Alameda County Food Bank – Food Drive

WEATHER FORECAST
Snow flurries daily (December 1 – 31) on the hour from
5 pm – 9 pm

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MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Momentum Still includes a wall covered in salvaged wood planks.

Room for Growth

Four artists construct a dreamed-up forest in headquarters gallery — one of Berkeley's rising exhibition spaces for early-career artists.

In the interest of firm footing, let's first approach *Momentum Still*, a group installation now at headquarters gallery, by way of literal description. First observation: Ornately patterned rugs carpet the small downtown Berkeley storefront studio, softening the usually hard tiled interior. Second: A wreath of tree boughs, several feet in diameter, occupies the room's middle space, suspended from the ceiling by taut twine. The wreath itself supports a loose weave of string and wood planks suggesting a sort of reconfigured dream catcher or rustic veil. A constellation of pinecones hangs in its midst. Third: One wall is paneled with salvaged wood planks of various shapes and sizes. The nooks between their strata contain little surprises: crystals, dried moss, bones, dollar bills, and so on.

The art here lies not so much in the exploration of any defined concept, but rather in the simple transformation of the space from a fairly clinical, no-frills studio into what gallery director and participating artist Lisa O'Reilly beamingly refers to as a "dreamscape forest" — or, as she pitched the project to fellow contributors Nick Lake, Sarah Person, and Travis Teel, "a magical forest of dreams." They signed on instantly.

Talking to O'Reilly, conversation has a tendency to become very lofty very quickly. A recent graduate of UC Berkeley's master's program in visual studies with a penchant for philosophy both analytical and Eastern, she tends to slip in and out of a language of New Age spirituality ("very Berkeley," she self-consciously acknowledges). In discussing *Momentum Still*, the Buddhist principle of dana (the practice of giving) came up, as did a light foray into existentialism and the importance of repurposed materials, but ultimately a perfectly down-to-earth, even elemental, motivation behind the exhibition emerged. "I wanted to create a super-cozy and embracing experience with old, good friends," she said, "and create new friends to join us in a place where we could all nestle in for the winter."

The intimacy suggested by this statement belies the significance of the role into which headquarters gallery has grown since O'Reilly expanded it in December 2010 from a personal studio into an exhibition space. Treating it as part laboratory, part playground, and part showcase, O'Reilly has developed headquarters as a space committed to artistic rigor, but also as a safe space, where artists can feel free to explore and display works that they might not venture elsewhere. In consequence, while headquarters is open to all artists, it has in particular emerged as something of a stepping stone for recent art school graduates.

Momentum Still is exemplary of this project. O'Reilly's invitation to craft a "dreamscape forest" was in effect a call for the four participating artists (herself included) to bring their respective practices to the table and, in collaboration, further develop them. That her downtown Berkeley storefront would be transformed into cozy habitation for any and all creative souls was, of course, an intended consequence.

Momentum Still runs through December 31 at headquarters gallery (2301 Roosevelt Ave., Berkeley). The gallery will host creative gatherings on December 4, 11, and 18, from 6–9 p.m. HQStudio.org

— Alex Bigman

ART GALLERIES

Addison/Milvia Studios. Val Jensen: A solo exhibit featuring mixed media works mapping the artist's physical locations and psychological and emotional spaces. Through Jan. 31, 2013. 2101 Milvia St., Berkeley. [illegible]

Amen Gallery. "Mostly Mends, Repaired and Wednesdays": Paying tribute to the artistry and creativity shown by mending, as well as the beauty of the imperfection. Mondays-Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Feb. 28. Free. 2808 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-845-4940. AmenGallery.com.

Arpeggio Building. "In Formation": The inaugural exhibition of the Berkeley Central Art Passage. Wed., Dec. 5, 6-8 p.m. Free. 2071 Center St., Berkeley.

Bancroft Library. Fiat Lux Redux: Ansel Adams and Clark Kerr: Featuring original Ansel Adams prints of rarely-seen images of the University of California System in the 1960s. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Continues through Fall. [illegible] Free. **"40 Years of Title IX":** A celebration of 40 years of Title IX with objects, manuscript and pictorial material from the Bancroft Library. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through Dec. [illegible] Free. UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Bancroft.Berkeley.edu.

Berkeley Art Center. Artists Annual: The center's annual exhibition of its members' work. Nov. 30-Jan. 13. Free. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch. The Art of Fumiye Yoshikawa: Bay Area artist Fumiye Yoshikawa exhibits sumi-e and reinvigorated traditional Japanese paintings. Artist's reception on Sunday, Nov. 11th, at 2:00 pm. Check online for library hours. Through Feb. 3, 2013. Free. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Bridgehead Studios. Veterans Banner: A gallery showing of art by over twenty veterans. Through Dec. 7. 6-8 p.m. Dec. 2015 Blanding Ave., Alameda. (510) 523-3666. BridgeheadStudios.com.

Bullseye Gallery. This Fragile Skin: Explorations of the human form in kilnformed glass. Tuesdays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through Jan. 12. Free. 4514 Hollis St., Emeryville. 510-595-1318. BullseyeGlass.com.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary. Continuous: With large-scale pencil drawings by Donna Anderson Kim. Through Nov. 29. Free. **Ghost:** Featuring oil paintings by Holly Thomas. Through Nov. 30. Free. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-260-7494. ChandraCerrito.com.

CK Gallery. Transformations: Saturdays, 12 p.m.-7 p.m., Wednesdays-Fridays, 2-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. 4125 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-750-2630. CKGallery.org.

The Compound Gallery & Studios. Joanne Lorenz: Solo exhibition. Opening reception on Saturday, Nov. 10, 6-9 p.m. Closing tea and small talk on Sunday, Dec. 16, 3-6 p.m. Through Dec. 16. 1167 65th St., Oakland. 510-601-1707. TheCompoundGallery.com.

[illegible] Center. [illegible] California: With illustrations, short films, and murals by Laura Cunningham, exploring what California was like before the [illegible] age. Through Jan. 20, 2013. 2870 Alcatraz Ave., Berkeley. 510-409-0990. [illegible]Center.org.

[illegible] Library. David Ross Brower: A Force for Nature: An exhibit honoring the founder of the modern environmental movement. Mondays-Fridays, Sundays, [illegible]. Continues through Mar. 31. Free. UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley. 510-643-0130.

Expressions Gallery. "Expressions: Excitement, & Joy": With art exploring [illegible] of celebration and joy in light of the New Year. Featuring pieces by internationally-renowned artists and 88-year-old cancer survivor Josh Weinstein. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 12-5 p.m.; Sundays, 12-3 p.m. Continues through Jan. 31, 2013. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

The Hive Gallery. Zephyr: Continuous installation by [illegible]. Through Nov. 30. Free. 301 Jefferson St., Oakland. 925-212-3328. HiveStudios.org.

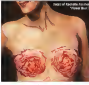
Continuous Projects. Sean Talley and Keith Jackson: Through Dec. 7. Free. 5432 Boyd Ave., Oakland. [illegible]Projects.net.

Interface Gallery. Food Stuff: Works by Sasha Duerr, [illegible], Cynthia Hooper, Kathleen Quillian, Chris Thorson, and Angel Van Styke explore the social, environmental, and [illegible]

PICKS

The Nude 2012

Studio Quercus presents *The Nude 2012*, an art exhibit of human nakedness in all its beauty and pathos. The exhibition gathers work from more than a dozen artists, spanning media from photography to painting to sculpture. The gallery's sensibility for the humorous and playfully offbeat in sexuality (see Tim Thurman and Walter Robinson's work *Tag Team*, or look no further than the gallery's doorstep — a pair of ceramic tits) is readily apparent, as in Rocky Angel's *Where's Waldo?*-esque painting of a beachside sex party/alien invasion, or M. Louise Stanley's painting of two part-bird, part woman creatures devouring the corpse of a man. On the more serious side of the spectrum is Julianne Wallace Sterling's gripping portrait of herself, red in the face, crouching in a corner with an expression registering weariness and intrigue, or Cindy Lamont's grim, impressionist canvas bearing a man in what appears to be a shower stall. *The Nude 2012* runs the gamut — that much is sure. Through December 15 at Studio Quercus (385 26th St., Oakland). 510-452-4670 or StudioQuercus.com. *— Alex Bigman*



Detail of Rachelle Reichert's "Flower Bust II."

2 x 2 Solos: Cybele Lyle and Wafaa Yasin

For the second installment of its 2 x 2 Solos series, Pro Arts Gallery lent its space to Cybele Lyle and Wafaa Yasin, both of who are concerned with what could be called "shifting spaces." That is the title of Lyle's work, an installation of angular platforms protruding from the gallery wall, vaguely resembling an open book. The work is unassuming, even austere-seeming, in and of itself but an accompanying book, filled with schematic iterations of the sculpture spliced with images of natural terrain, reveals an unexpected depth in its ambitions. For Yasin, meanwhile, the shifting space is simultaneously the Israeli/Palestinian border (Yasin was born in Galilee) and her own body. In one video work, she fashions herself into a human yacht and sets sail. In another, she engineers diverse legislation pertaining to hillside housing developments, using the artist's pregnant belly for model terrain. *2 x 2 Solos: Cybele Lyle and Wafaa Yasin* run through November 30 at Pro Arts Gallery (150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland). 510-763-4361 or ProArtsGallery.org. *— A.B.*

Sean Talley and Kate Bonner

Important Projects has cleared out the perpetual "install party" that was its previous exhibition to make way for two Bay Area artists, Sean Talley and Kate Bonner. Both explore the possibilities of pushing canonical approaches — abstract line drawing in Talley's case, landscape photography in Bonner's — through unexpected technological loops. Emphasizing "unassuming materials and refined processes," Talley describes his forms with digital software, then applies them to paper via graphite powder. Ceramic lattices and nests, the artist's latest interests, formally riff off of the drawings. Meanwhile, Bonner warps her landscapes through a process of digital manipulation, cutting, printing, and photocopying, ultimately winding up with sculptural works mounted on MDF board. The conceptual concern here is with the notion of editing — an act of clarification or concealment, sometimes simultaneously. Some works articulate their content more emphatically in sculpture form. Others look like puzzles with some key pieces missing. *Sean Talley and Kate Bonner* run through December 7 at Important Projects (5431 Boyd Ave., Oakland). ImportantProjects.net. *— A.B.*

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of food waste and food systems. Opening reception on Friday, Nov. 2, 6-8 p.m. Through Dec. 7. 480 49th St., Oakland. [illegible]ArtGallery.net.

Jingletown various locations: 7th Annual Jingletown [illegible] ArtWalk The annual winter open studio event will highlight 35 artists who live and / or work in Jingletown, one of the most established arts districts in the Bay Area. Sat., Dec. 1, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., Dec. 2, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. free. between Park and Fruitvale bridges, Oakland.

Johansson Projects: Rachel Kaye and Casey Weldon Featuring the works of Rachel Kaye in "SHEBAM! POP! BLOP! WIZZ!" and Casey Weldon in "Dead Beat." Starting Dec. 1. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m., Thursdays, Fridays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Jan. 12. free. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

Joyce Gordon Gallery: Occupy: The Plein Air Story Marking the anniversary of the Occupy Movement with art from three Bay Area plein air painters. Opening reception Friday, Nov. 2, 6-9pm. Occupy Poetry Saturday, Nov. 3, 3-5pm. Saturdays, Sundays, 1-4 p.m. Continues through Dec. 3. free. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

Kala Art Institute Gallery: Lift, Weight, Thrust, Drag A photography exhibit of aviation photography by Mr. Alex [illegible]. Through Dec. 3. 12-5:30 p.m. free. **100 Acts of Sewing** Fiber artist Sonya Philip's project to sew 100 dresses in one year and explore making versus manufacturing. Through Dec. 17. 12-6:30 p.m. free. 2990 San Pablo Ave., Opening. 510-841-7000. Kala.org.

Krowswork: Mark Baugh-Sasaki: The Cultivated Wild Sculpture, photography, installation, video, and drawing that together explore the entrenched hybridity of the California landscape. Opening reception for the artist Friday October 26, 6-9 pm. Fridays, 3-6 p.m. Exhibits through Dec. 8. free. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-229-7835. Krowswork.com.

Martina [illegible] Johnston: All the Paranoid Monoliths An exhibition of paintings and sculptural installations by Leonora Sulyok. Opening reception Nov. 18, 4-8pm. Sundays, 1-4 p.m. Continues through Dec. 30. free. [illegible] 54th St. Opening. 510-[illegible]. MartinaJohnston.org.

Mercury 20 Gallery: PK [illegible] Paranoid of Things [illegible] PK Terrell uses tea, plant materials, and discarded broken objects to explore the nature of mind and memory. Thursdays-Saturdays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. free. **Kerry Vander Meer: Kind in the Interlude** Kerry Vander Meer sets a stage with sculpture and wall pieces, using motifs to evoke pleasure, drama, humor and curious familiarity. Thursdays-Saturdays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. free. **Cartographies** This group show features new work by three artists and use the map as a jumping off point for exploration. Thursdays-Saturdays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. 475 25th St., Oakland, 510-834-7785. [illegible].

Mythos Fine Art & Artifacts: Mythos Fine Art & Artifacts Grand Opening Celebrating the grand opening of the new Mythos location, featuring international artists from India, Pakistan, Greece, the Middle and Far East, and Bay Area locals. Fri., Nov. 30, 6-8 p.m. free. 538 Dwight Way. Opening. 510-528-4091. MythosFineArt.com.

Oakland Public Library Teen Zone: Elias Dewberry Exhibit Kid's street art-style works by the 12-year-old Oakland artist. Through Nov. 30. Main branch, Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] Gallery: "EVERY_BODY" Eleven Bay Area artists present their interpretations of the human figure. Opening reception Nov. 24, 4-7pm. Mondays-Sundays, 6-9 p.m. Continues through Dec. 7. free. 1507 Park St., Alameda. [illegible]AlamedaGallery.com.

Pro Arts Gallery: 2 x 2 Solos: Cybele Lyle and Wafaa Yasin Two solo exhibitions of new work curated by Jacqueline Clay and Lauren [illegible], respectively. Through Nov. 30. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361. ProArtsGallery.org.

Rhythmix Cultural Works: [illegible] "Too Great or Small" Twelve paintings by Mark R. [illegible]. Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m., Second Friday of every month, 6-9 p.m. Continues through Jan. 4. free. 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060.

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SLATE contemporary: Patricia Gonzalez "Periodic Tales" Paintings exploring themes of [illegible], home, and [illegible]. Thursdays-Saturdays, 12-5 p.m.; First Friday of every month, 12-8 p.m.; [illegible] Saturday of every month, 12-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 22. free. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-355-8659. SlateArtGallery.com.

Studio Quercus: The Nude 2012 An art exhibit of human nakedness in all its beauty and pathos. Featuring the multi-medium work of 23 [illegible] artists exploring the human form. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. Continues through Dec. 15. 385 14th St., Oakland. 510-452-4670. StudioQuercus.com.

Swarm Gallery: [illegible] Berkeley [illegible] in the present tense. Through Dec. 23. **Tara Howard** Showing work in the gallery. Through Dec. 23. **"APOPHASIS"** An exhibition of new work by Tara Hatton and a new installation by James Sansing. Starting Dec. 5. First Friday of every month, 6-9 p.m.; First Wednesday-Sunday of every month, 12-5:30 p.m. Continues through Jan. 20. free. 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787. SwarmGallery.com.

[illegible] Featuring videos, posters, drawings and poetry by East Bay youth. Sundays, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 30. free. north end of Central Park Drive, Berkeley. 888-327-2757. EBParks.org.

Trax Gallery: [illegible] Sculptural pieces from the two artists. Wednesdays-Sundays, 12-5:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 20. free. 1812 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-540-8729. TraxGallery.com.

[illegible] Contemporary: [illegible] Five artists highlight the gallery program's emphasis on nontraditional methods and artists through photographs, some of them arguably "failed," sculpture, drawing and collage. Through Dec. 22. 885 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214. [illegible].

University of California Botanical Garden: [illegible] Artists, Architects, [illegible] and more in the studios. A collaborative project between the Botanical Garden and a multi-disciplinary group of artists, writers, architects and researchers who [illegible] in the garden with horticulturalists to develop site-specific works. Through Jan. 13, 2013. [illegible] 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Saturday Stroll A weekly component to Art Murmur, but with fewer crowds and more focus on the galleries. OaklandArtMurmur.org for a full list of participating Oakland galleries. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. 19th St. at Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

The Uptown Print Studio Photo Book Featuring photography by Sharon Carr. Through Nov. 30. free. 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-6100. [illegible].

[illegible] Gallery: Inside Out, A [illegible] North Retrospective Featuring a retrospective of some of the artist's best [illegible]. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. free. 471 25th St., Oakland.

Zughaib [illegible] Sculptural works by the artist, on display by appointment through Jan. 4. Sat., Dec. 1, 6-10 p.m. free. 1386 3rd St., Berkeley. 510-526-8181. [illegible].

MUSEUMS

Asian Art Museum of San Francisco: Out of Character: Decoding Chinese Calligraphy Featuring new and contemporary work. With various special events, see website for schedule. Through Jan. 13, 2013. free-$12. **In a New Light** [illegible] Daily. 200 Larkin St., San Francisco. 415-581-3500. AsianArt.org.

Bancroft Library: Fiat Lux: Ansel Adams and Clark Kerr With original photographs by Adams, commissioned by former UC President Kerr. Through Feb. 28, 2013. UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Bancroft.Berkeley.edu.

BAM/PFA: Barry McGee The first midcareer survey of the prolific San Francisco-based street artist features rarely seen early etchings, his signature painted figure studies on [illegible] panels, [illegible] bottles, a re-creation of a street-corner bodega, and more. Through Dec. 9. **Himalayan Pilgrimage: [illegible] in the Land of [illegible]** Sculptures and paintings from Tibet. Through June 30, 2013. **Points of Departure** Nineteenth-century paintings, photographs, and works on paper by American and European artists. Through Dec. 2. free-$10. **Trimpin: Nancarrow Percussion Orchestra / MATRIX 244** A new sound art installation by the Seattle-based artist Trimpin. The work is created in honor of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of the avant-garde American composer Conlon Nancarrow. [illegible] Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through Dec. 2. free with admission. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Children's Creativity Museum: Reality Remix Hands-on exhibit for kids that provides open access to arts, media, and technology. Daily. 221 4th St., San Francisco. 415-820-3320. [illegible].

Contemporary Jewish Museum: [illegible] Life in the Bay Area from the Gold Rush to the Present [illegible] of Jewish history in the Bay Area from the Gold Rush to the present, also featuring voices from the contemporary Jewish community. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Extended through Apr. 28. $12. 736 Mission St., San Francisco. 415-655-7800.

de Young Museum: [illegible] Collection: A [illegible] Including work by Paul Cezanne, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, and [illegible]. Through Dec. 30. free-$10. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., San Francisco. 415-750-3600. DeYoungMuseum.org.

Doe Library: "All Hail to the Chief": A History of US Presidential [illegible] in Cal, 1898-2008 An exhibition highlighting campus visits by ten US presidents, on display in the [illegible] (second floor corridor). Through Nov. 30. UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley. 510-643-6136.

Exploratorium: Traits of Life A collection of exhibits and demonstrations examining the fundamental elements common to all living things. Daily. 3601 Lyon St., San Francisco. 415-561-0360. Exploratorium.edu.

[illegible]: American Shell Game The ongoing exhibition of [illegible] painting, *Shell Game, The Big C's vs. The Missing Pieces*. Daily. [illegible] Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-847-1111. [illegible].

Museum of Children's Art: [illegible] Mosaic Artists: [illegible] exploring Diversity Through Mosaics An ongoing [illegible] show. Daily. **Studio Art: Pet Portraiture** A celebration of pets, in season. Daily. 538 Ninth St., Oakland. 510-465-8770. [illegible].

Lacis Museum of Lace and Textiles: Treasures of Lace With an exhibition of present. Through Feb. 2, 2013. **Treasures** Featuring special items of the Lacis Museum of Lace and Textiles. Through Feb. 2, 2013. 2982 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-843-7290. LacisMuseum.org.

Lawrence Hall of Science: [illegible] A math-themed educational exhibit for all ages featuring a rideable bicycle and square wheels, a laser ring of fire, and much more. Through Jan. 6, 2013. **Science on a Sphere (SOS)** New [illegible] exhibit features an animated globe. Photo hurricanes form, [illegible] swing across the oceans, and city lights glow around the planet. Daily. [illegible]. 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, Berkeley Lab: Interactive installation invites visitors to explore digital family theatre and exhibitions [illegible] records, photographs, and [illegible]. Daily. **Type/Graphics: exploring [illegible] Types in Print and Photography** An exhibition investigating the use of reproducible images in ethnographic and documentary studies of Jewish lives, since the 19th century to the present, in the main gallery. Through Dec. 16. **Case Study No. 2. The Secondary Project** An exhibition drawn from unusual items from the Magnes collection such as calendars, amulets, postcards, and [illegible] brought to the [illegible] Gallery. Through Dec. 16. [illegible] **[illegible] Jewish [illegible], 1962-1994** in the [illegible] Gallery. Through Dec. 16. **Modern Jewish History 101: The Art Print** With work inspired by and reflective of artists' life, in various media and by various artists. Through Jan. 13, 2013. free. **Modern Posters From The Campus: [illegible], 1961-1994** With post-Holocaust posters from [illegible], the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain. Through Dec. 16. free. **Type/Graphics: Studying [illegible] Types in Print and Photography** An investigation of the use of reproducible images in ethnographic and documentary studies of Jewish lives, since 18th-century to the present, featuring work by famous as well as lesser-known Jewish artists. Through Dec. 16. free. **[illegible]** [illegible] the museum's extensive [illegible] and [illegible]. Daily. **Modern Jewish History 101: The Art Files** An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by prominent artists examining key historical moments in Jewish life, from the attacks on Jews in Russia in the late 19th and early 20th [illegible] to emigration and the [illegible] in the Charles Michaels Gallery. Through May 31, 2013. 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

Mills College Art Museum: [illegible] Karen [illegible]'s World of Ballet and Studios An exhibition dedicated to the artist's longstanding engagement with [illegible] theatre [illegible] for Classical and Romantic story ballets of the 17th and early 19th [illegible]. Through Dec. 9. [illegible] Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Through Dec. 9. free. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164. MCAM.Mills.edu.

North Gate Hall: [illegible] The 1400 Block of Telegraph Avenue, 1969-1973 With photographs of Telegraph Avenue in the [illegible] by Nacio Jan Brown. In room 105. Through Jan. 11, 2013. UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

Oakland Museum of California: [illegible] Days of the Dead / Día de los Muertos 2012 The museum's eighteenth annual Día de los Muertos exhibition of altars, art, and installations, curated by Eduardo Pineda. Through Dec. 9. free-$12. **[illegible] of California Art** With more than 800 works from the OMCA collection. Through Dec. [illegible]. **[illegible] and Mexican Light: Valley of Shadows and [illegible]** With photographs exploring California's Central Valley and highlighting the experiences of farmworkers and their families. Through Dec. 31. **Playing With Fire** Celebrating the 50-year anniversary of the studio glass movement [illegible] artists influenced California artists. Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through Mar. 24. $12. **Free First Sundays** Free museum admission every first Sunday of the month. First Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

Pacific Pinball Museum: [illegible] Pinball [illegible] With 15 woodrails and 20 wedgeheads from Larry Zartarian's collection, pinball games representing early [illegible] from the [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible]. Daily. [illegible] 1510 Webster St., Alameda. [illegible]. PacificPinball.org. ■

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QUARTET SAN FRANCISCO
PLAYS THE MUSIC OF RAYMOND SCOTT
BAM/PFA

Former DNA drummer Mori brings her collection of drum machines, laptop [illegible] to improvise an atmospheric sonic swirl in our atrium gallery, in collaboration with throat-singer Ken Ueno.

5:00 Doors
5:30 Performance

IN THE GALLERIES
Barry McGee ◆ Trimpin: Nancarrow Percussion Orchestra ◆ At the Edge ◆ Himalayan Pilgrimage

Quartet San Francisco performs an eclectic program featuring the high-energy, zany compositions of Raymond Scott, best known as cartoon soundtracks but originally written for concert performance.

Programmed by Sarah Cahill

5:00 Doors
5:30 RE@DS: [illegible]
7:30 Performance

GALLERIES OPEN UNTIL 9 PM

◆ BABETTE: serving dinner, beer & wine until 8:30

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THEATER & DANCE

A Performance-Art Grab Bag

First Person Singular adds original material to its mix of re-contextualized narratives, found art, and repurposed literature.

There's a rich tradition to the art of the found. From Marcel Duchamp's readymades of the 1910s through today's *Found* magazine, found art has a way of capturing the imagination. Often the artist (or archeo-artist, as it were) simply puts an ironic frame around an item and recontextualizes it. Found performance tends to repurpose its source material. For instance, verbatim theater encourages an audience to listen in a new way (Anna Deavere Smith does this powerfully), while found comedy takes the accidentally hilarious and shines a spotlight on it (think, Tina Fey's verbatim reenactment of Sarah Palin).

Smarty-pants word watching has become an underground sport and another element of the growing found art genre. Witness the cataloging of grammatical mistakes known as Chinglish (Chinese signs with unintentionally comical English translations) and collections like *The Book of "Unnecessary" Quotation Marks*.

Upcycling of poor prose for comical purposes is also a winning formula, as in *Mortified*, a supremely popular staged reading series that draws from the vaults of teen diaries and poetry. SF Sketchfest also loves this formula; its material is often culled, swiped, or appropriated from real life. The Sketchfest series "Celebrity Autobiography: In Their Own Words" features funny actors reading from B-list celebrities' life stories.

Similarly, First Person Singular, the Berkeley-based dramatic reading series, shines new lights on forgotten texts and offbeat material. The more-or-less monthly series is designed to highlight personal voice, "broadly defined." Its theme-based readings are part spoken word, part play, and part book reading.

Memorable found-art performances of the past include Josh Kornbluth reading Allen Ginsberg's *Howl*, an acoustic performance of the entirety of Bruce Springsteen's *Nebraska*, and an all-female reading of *Glengarry Glen Ross*, David Mamet's testosterone-soaked play. Another interesting mingling was a staged reading of Strunk & White's *The Elements of Style* — paired with music from Schoolhouse Rock.

On December 18, First Person Singular will again stage the unlikely in *SCHMALTZ!*, a holiday sing-along celebrating the genius of Barry Manilow. But before that, on Monday, December 3, The Ashby Stage (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley) hosts First Person Singular as it eschews found art (but not its spirit) by offering its first evening of all original material in *Hear Me Now: Cell Phone Monologues*. Joe Christiano, the series' producer and host, said the genre of cell phone verbiage is suited to First Person Singular's voice-centric tastes.

"When cell phones became a cultural phenomenon, people suddenly had license to exhibit themselves in a curious new way; with many, it became a kind of performance," Christiano said. He calls these public displays of cell phone conversation "unsolicited public theater." *Hear Me Now* aims to place it in a proper context.

The show features local performers from the solo theater and the literary worlds presenting monologues of one-sided phone conversations. The lineup includes performer/comedian Marga Gomez, novelist April Sinclair, actor and playwright Christopher Kuckenbaker, and comedian and solo theater writer-performer Alicia Dattner.

The performances will no doubt expand the genre of one-sided phone-call comedy. While phones have gotten smaller and less tethered, there haven't been many advances in this comedic form since the 1970s, when Bob Newhart raised the telephone monologue to an art. Still, one imagines that "found" cell phone conversations — overheard on the street or in line at the grocery store — could offer just as much comedic value.

Hear Me Now: Cell Phone Monologues plays on Monday, Dec. 3, at The Ashby Stage (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). $15. 510-841-6900. 1stPersonSingular.com

— Sylvia [illegible]

COMEDY

Comedy and Pinball for a Rabbit Featuring headliner [illegible]. Proceeds support the Center for Independent Living Systems Change Network. Wed., Dec. 5, 8-10 p.m. Donations accepted. [illegible] 522 2nd St., Oakland, 510-448-8411, [illegible].

Don Reed's East 14th A Benefit for 510-ab[illegible] Sun., Dec. 2, 3 p.m. $25. [illegible] San Francisco, 1330 Fillmore St., San Francisco, 415-655-5600, [illegible].com.

The Last Laugh With [illegible] and various comics. Fridays, Saturdays, 10:30 p.m. $8-$10. The-Last-Laugh.com. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland, 415-971-1841, PanTheater.com.

[illegible] Comedy Happy Hour With three solo performances from The Marsh, including [illegible], [illegible] and Colin Mahan. Wed., Dec. 5, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

Stone Soup Improv Show Stone Soup brings "over 50 years (collectively)" of improv experience to the stage. First Saturday of every month, 8-10 p.m. $10. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-841-4824, BFUU.org.

Sunday Night Comedy and Poetry Hosted by LeRoy Stanfield. Ages 21 and up. Sundays, 8 p.m. [illegible]Productions.com. Island Paradise Club, 1438 Webster St., Alameda, 510-888-3823, IslandParadiseClub.com.

Toil and Trouble A comedic spin on Macbeth. Directed by Lauren Gunderson. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 8. $17, $12 for students. [illegible] Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-404-4488.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

[illegible] Mary Armentrout's newest site-specific dance theater installation about change and [illegible]. Sat., Dec. 1, 4-8 p.m., Sun., Dec. 2, 4-8 p.m. $20. The Milk Bar, 801 [illegible] Ave., Oakland.

Story of the Nutcracker Contra Costa Ballet presents an hour-long version of the classic Christmas story about a girl and her nutcracker. Nov. 29-Dec. 2. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-295-1400, LesherArtsCenter.org.

LIVE VARIETY

[illegible] A drag show featuring Vegas Jake, [illegible], Steve Roy, [illegible], Pepe Pan, [illegible], and more, followed by dancing and DJs. Third and first Wednesday of every month, 8 p.m. $5. White Horse Inn, 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3820, WhiteHorseBar.com.

Unique Derique Featuring the clown and balloon artist. Sat., Dec. 1, 10:30 a.m. Free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

All My Sons Arthur Miller's 1947 classic. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m., Thu., Dec. 6, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 9. $10-25. Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward, 510-881-6777, DMTonline.org.

Aurora Script Club: [illegible] Performers will read several of [illegible] short plays together to explore the [illegible] they have with the one-act plays of Thornton Wilder. Mon., Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m. Free. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

Don Reed's The Kipling Hotel: [illegible] of the one-and-Pink 80s Reed's one-man show chronicles his misadventures throughout the 1980s, from failed attempts at working as a stripper and a gigolo to his stint as a live-in waiter at a [illegible] hotel. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m., Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 16. $15-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-284-8281, TheMarsh.org.

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PICKS

The White Snake

Mary Zimmerman's *The White Snake* is a visually stunning adaptation of an ancient Chinese fable. In this world premiere Berkeley Rep production, the visionary director once again demonstrates the magic of low-tech. The play uses artful puppetry and minimalist impressionistic design flourishes to tell the tale of a snake from the spirit world who transforms herself into a woman to join the mortals on Earth and seduce a trusting man. Zimmerman has made a career of revamping classics, reinventing myths and fables in surprising ways that remind us of their relevance. *The White Snake* reconsiders the specter of a snake as a symbol of sorcery and temptation and of the battle between good and evil. The play may not be as narratively engaging as Zimmerman's other works (*Metamorphoses*, *Argonautika*, or *The Arabian Nights*), but it is a striking spectacle of stage design and performance art. Through December 23 at Berkeley Repertory Theatre (2025 Addison St., Berkeley). [illegible] 510-647-2949 or BerkeleyRep.org. *— Erika Milvy*

Wilder Times

Marvelously staged with cogency and great humor, Aurora's Theatre's *Wilder Times* is a grouping of four of Thornton Wilder's one-act plays that consider the stages of life from infancy through old age. In each, Wilder looks at a different phase of human development (from babyhood to childhood to parenthood and on — surrealistically — through spans of lifetimes and several circles of life. Barbara Oliver's smart and tight production reveals family emotions and the dissonance between generations. *Infancy* is a broad comedy in which grown men play babes in lace bonnets, frustrated by the adults around them. *Childhood* takes the generation gap to a darker place as a game of pretend turns out to be not very fun. *The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden* bears a resemblance to *Our Town* in its bare-bones narrative and unadorned directness. And *The Long Christmas Dinner* is a brilliant blend of realism and modernism as one family meal lasts a century, time moving fast as lightning and as slow as paint. These shorts are funny, touching, and extremely well performed. Through December 9 at Aurora Theatre (2081 Addison St., Berkeley). 510-843-4822 or AuroraTheatre.org. *— Erika Milvy*

Dracula Adapted, directed, and designed by Giulio Cesare Perrone. Fridays, 8 p.m. Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 18. $12-25. South Berkeley Community Church, 1802 Fairview Street, Berkeley.

dreambody/earthbody A film documenting a "kinetic dreaming ritual" developed by director Anara Alli combining movements ritualized itself. Planned to install the emotions and images while awake. Wed., Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. $10 suggested donation. Humanist Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland. 510-451-5818. HumanistHall.org.

Full Spectrum Improvisation Ensemble and solo improvisational theatre in a range of styles. Sun., Dec. 2, 8 p.m. $10-15. Western Sky Studio, 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-848-4878.

Four Me Here: Lost Phone Monologues Written and performed by Trevor Allen. Mon., Dec. 3, 8 p.m. $15. Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500. ShotgunPlayers.org.

An Iliad Adapted from Homer by Obie Award-winner Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare. Through Nov. 18. Check dance for show times and tickets. Tuesdays-Sundays. $34-57. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

It's A Wonderful Life Directed by Lisa Anne Porter. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays, 8 p.m. Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Dec. 16. $15-32. Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette. 925-283-1557.

Little Women, The Musical Jan Brown directs a musical adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's novel about four sisters and the bittersweet visions one of them writes in her studio. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sun., Dec. 2, 2 p.m. Continues through Dec. 8. $20. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond. 510-232-4031. Masquers.org.

A Mummy from the Future/Un Theatre de del Futuro "The Ink Dancers: Danza de la Compasión" perform a bilingual-multimedia show that includes aerial dance, live-painting, video projections and poetry. Sat., Dec. 1, 8-8:15 p.m. $10. Eighth Street Studio, 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-527-6115.

More Listings Online
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A Performers' Showcase Reading scenes from Arthur Miller to Sarah Ruhl. Sat., Dec. 1, 3:30 p.m. Free. Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

"Return" Performance series for developing new material, curated by Steven Pauley. Fri., Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m. $10 suggested donation. Church of the Good Shepherd, 1823 Ninth Street, Berkeley. 510-548-1433.

"Ask for Deep Love" Frank Moore will conduct "unexpected passions" of musicians, actors, dancers, and audience members in a laboratory setting to create intimate realms of fusion beyond visions. Starting Dec. 1. First Saturday of every month, 8:41 p.m. Continues through Dec. 7. Donations encouraged. Temescal Art Center, 511 48th St., Oakland. 510-328-1074. TemescalArtCenter.org.

The Songbird of Paris The story of legendary French singer, Edith Piaf. Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. $15-35. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org.

The Sound of Music Directed by Elizabeth McKoy. Thursdays, Fridays, 7 p.m. Saturdays, 2 & 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. $17.35. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org.

The White Snake Tony award-winning director Mary Zimmerman helms the world premiere of her adaptation of an ancient Chinese legend. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 & 7 p.m. Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m. Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 23. $14.50-$89. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

Wilder Times Barbara Oliver directs four short plays by Thornton Wilder. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 9. $32-$60. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

Woyzeck West Coast premiere of the Phoenix adaptation of Georg Buchner's seminal tragedy, directed by Mark Jackson with music and lyrics by Tom Waits and Kathleen Brennan. Nov. 29-Jan. 13, 7 p.m., Sundays, 5 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Jan. 13. $23-$35. Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500.

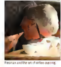
Comedian Don Reed plays Yoshi's San Francisco on 12/2

LECTURES & LIT

Rage Against the Nespresso Machine

James Freeman reveals the art of Blue Bottle Coffee

As a clarinet player, James Freeman was able to scrape together a modest living by touring the country. "But the moments of inspiration were fewer and farther between," he said. So he put down his clarinet and decided to pursue his real passion: coffee. Freeman, who already roasted his own beans at home on a perforated baking sheet, rented a potting shed behind Temescal's Doña Tomás restaurant and started quietly roasting his own coffee beans, selling them at Berkeley and Oakland farmers' markets. He was pleasantly surprised when patrons waited — patiently — for coffee that dripped one cup at a time, and for short shots of espresso, made perfect with a thin layer of crema. Freeman expanded to opening a kiosk in Hayes Valley, the first Blue Bottle Coffee location, and roasting centers in Oakland and Brooklyn. "I love the neighborhood," Freeman said of the Jack London warehouse district where his roastery/cafe is located, "but I had absolutely no faith in my ability to get customers over there." But people came, and kept coming, making Blue Bottle Coffee one of the breakout success stories of the third wave coffee movement. (It recently raised $20 million — see page 8 for more.) Freeman and his wife/collaborator Caitlin will discuss how they crafted their coffee empire, as well as share recipes and techniques from their new book, *The Blue Bottle Craft of Coffee*, on Thursday, November 29, at Books Inc. (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley).



Freeman and the art of coffee cupping.

Coffee drinkers will find the book a ton of fun. Others will be amused by the lengths coffee lovers will go to for a sublime cup o' joe. Writing with the Bay Area foodie in mind, Freeman reveals his favorites farmers in Hawaii and El Salvador, home roasting techniques, and step-by-step instructions on coffee cupping (essentially wine tasting for coffee geeks). He doesn't leave anything to chance. He includes details such as the appropriate direction to pour water over the coffee (always clockwise) and the correct temperature of water to use. And he prefers that you first drink your cup black, without cream and sugar, in order to properly decide whether you want to doctor it.

Home-brewing techniques include the pour-over, which is used at Blue Bottle cafes, the French press, and — my new personal favorite — the Nel Drip. You'll get pure giggles from reading this three-page process that requires no fewer than eleven implements, including a soft-bristle brush and a thin bamboo paddle. Nel Drip coffee making involves pinching, sparking, and grooming the coffee until a mushroom cap forms. It's wicked, delicious drinking.

The book finishes with perfect coffee-pairing breakfast and dessert recipes courtesy of Caitlin Freeman, who gave up her San Francisco cake shop Miette to go on this crazy coffee adventure with her husband. And they don't forget those who came before them. "Anyone working in specialty coffee should feel a debt of gratitude towards Starbucks," Freeman said with sincerity. The coffee chain, along with Peet's Coffee & Tea, helped train consumers to enjoy good coffee, and, equally importantly, to pay increasingly higher prices for it. But to the true coffee lover, that's small beans.

7 p.m., free. 510-525-7777 or Booksinc.net

— *Alison Peters*

LECTURES

"Arab Spring or Arab Winter: The Fates of Hamas, Gaza and Israel" A talk by Israeli journalist and author [illegible]. Sun., Dec. 2, 7 p.m., free. Congregation Beth El, 1301 Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-848-3988.

"Income Inequality" UC Berkeley Professor Emmanuel Saez: Reading evidence on income inequality gathered by a collective group of researchers in the World Top Incomes Database. Tue., Dec. 4, 4:30 p.m., free. International House, 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-9490.

"Iran: A State of Paradox" Featuring Professor Hamid Algar. Thu., Nov. 29, 2:30 p.m., free. International House, 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-9490.

[illegible] Giving a talk, "Luminous Currents: Tracing Modernism from Southeast to Arabia." Mon., Dec. 3, 7:30-9 p.m., free. Sutardja Dai Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

"A Landscape Rise" In conversation with Ryan Phelan of the Long Now Foundation, Laura Cunningham will explore the theme of changing natural landscapes. Wed., Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m., free. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-809-0900, BrowerCenter.org.

Lounge Science The East Bay science cafe featuring Mark Lubell. Wed., Dec. 5, 7-9 p.m., free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

"Making Standards Gone Bananas: The Challenges of Achieving Sustainability" Featuring Professor Alastair Iles from the department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management. Thu., Nov. 29, 12-1 p.m., free. Mulford Hall, UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley.

Stop Drone Warfare Now Featuring Toby Blomé and Dianne Budd of CodePink, Leah Bolger, President of Veterans for Peace, and Joe Lombardo, UNAC Co-National Coordinator. Sun., Dec. 2, 2:30-5:30 p.m., $5-10 suggested donation. Berkeley Unitarian Universalists, 1606 Bonita Ave., Berkeley.

LITERARY EVENTS

Art Boot Writers' Society Writer Carl Coppola hosts a weekly writing and performance workshop designed to generate new material and create a [illegible] community of Bay Area writers. Mondays, 7-9:30 p.m., [illegible]. The 25th Street Collective, 477 25th St., Oakland, 510-384-3846, 25thStreetCollective.com.

[illegible] Part of Poetry Flash at Diesel. Sun., Dec. 2, 3 p.m., free. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-9965, DieselBookstore.com.

Dr. Robin Zasio From the hit A&E show *Hoarders*, psychologist Dr. Robin Zasio discusses her book *The Hoarder in You: How to Live a Happier, Healthier, Uncluttered Life*. Fri., Nov. 30, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8210, GreatGoodPlaceforBooks.com.

The East Bay Mystery Readers' Books. Visit website for monthly titles. First Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. EBMRG.org. Walden Pond Books, 3316 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-832-4438, WaldenPondBooks.com.

Free Book Exchange Give and get free books of all genres. Saturdays, Sundays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., free. 510-215-1260, BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com. Bay Area Free Book Exchange, 12920 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-1260, BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com.

Hella Rock and Speakeasy Ill Thursdays Open mic poetry, followed at 10:30 p.m. by dancing, poetry, rap, food, live DJs, and more. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., donations accepted. EastSide Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-6629, EastsideArtsAlliance.com.

[illegible] The author will discuss *Sea of Troubles*, the [illegible] of Point Sur, the latest book in a trilogy of shipwreck stories along the central California coast. Sat., Dec. 8, 3 p.m., free. [illegible], 2255 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-865-4209.

Mystery Reading Group Group discussions of mystery novels. Moderated by best-selling author Camille Minichino. First Tuesday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave., Castro Valley, 510-667-7900, ACLibrary.org.

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Zoltron Eddie Colla
Filth Grime Nite Owl
DYoungV Lisa Pisa
Hugh Leeman Helen Bayly
Daryll Peirce

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All Day December 1st

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IOAKal is a collaborative project between
Spoke Art fiftyseven-thirtythree and East Bay Express

PICKS

Andrew Solomon

[illegible]

Andrew Solomon

As a [illegible] of straight parents, Andrew Solomon understood early on that the old adage doesn't always apply. The apple can fall pretty far from the tree, and the fallout can be difficult. While reporting on the explosion of deaf pride celebrations in the 1990s, Solomon began interviewing families — more than three hundred of them — who were dealing with extreme challenges: children who had dwarfism, Down syndrome, and severe disabilities; who identified as transgender; and who were conceived through rape. He concluded that, even though those issues tend to isolate the child, the process of dealing with these differences transcends all other boundaries, and, eventually, love triumphs. The families developed a special closeness, formed supportive communities, became activists, and faced their fears head-on. And, in turn, the families helped Solomon come to terms with his own identity and his decision to become a parent. Winner of the 2001 National Book Award, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, and a *New York Times* bestselling author, Solomon will talk about his new book, *Far From the Tree*, which recounts his personal journey and what he learned over the course of ten years of familial research. He appears on Thursday, Nov. 29, at The Hillside Club (2286 Cedar St., Berkeley). 7:30 p.m., $12 in advance, $15 at the door, $7 for students and members. 510-848-3227 or HillsideClub.org. — *Alison Peters*

Hugh Martin and Kathleen Winter

Iraq war veteran Hugh Martin brings his experience in the armed forces to his first poetry book, *The Stick Soldiers*. His poems incorporate his withdrawal from school, his basic training, his foot patrols in Iraq, his participation in raids, his disposal of IEDs, and his return home. They bear witness to his experience, as well as provide some poetic solace. Meanwhile, Kathleen Winter's first book of poetry, *Nostalgia for the Criminal Past*, juxtaposes the experience of women and men, animals and humans, and childhood innocence and adult understanding. A graduate of UC Davis School of Law and now a writing teacher at San Francisco State University, Winter explores the idea of the collective human memory alongside the individual, refusing to allow that humans are elevated above the "beasts populating the earth." Weaving together interesting images with her law-school vocabulary, Winter provides a thought-provoking read, which won the Antivenom Poetry Prize. She and Martin read on Thursday, Nov. 29, at Moe's Books (2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley). 7:30 p.m., free. 510-849-2087 or MoesBooks.com. — *A.P.*

PEN Oakland 22nd Annual Reading Literary Awards Awards distribution and readings by winners, followed by a reception and book signings. Sat., Dec. 1, 2-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

Poetry Reading by Five Bay Area Poets Featuring readings by Daniel O'Connell, [illegible], [illegible] Saunders, and Genny Lim. Fri., Nov. 30, 7:30-10 p.m. $10-15. Art House Gallery & Cultural Center, 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-472-3170. BerkeleyArtHouse.WordPress.com.

The Reading Room An ensemble [illegible] to poetry and experimental fiction with a reading room, recordings of books and a chance to take home a book drawn from [illegible] East Bay persons. Through Dec. 5. [illegible] 2020 [illegible] Berkeley. 510-842-0886. [illegible]

[illegible] Holiday Open House Readings at 2pm. Musical performance by [illegible] at 3pm. 20-40% off warehouse-wide. Sun., Dec. 2, 1-4 p.m. Small Press Distribution, 1341 Seventh St., Berkeley. 510-524-1668. SPDBooks.org.

[illegible] The author of [illegible] discusses her book. Followed by [illegible] and book signing. Sat., Dec. 1, 5 p.m. [illegible] Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, 1433 Madison St., Oakland. 510-548-0542. ICCNC.org.

Sylvie Simmons Author of the new book *I'm Your Man: The Life of Leonard Cohen*. Sat., Dec. 1, 4 p.m. free. Diesel, 5433 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Tom Reiss Discussing the history of the real Count of Monte Cristo with his book, *The Black Count*. Tue., Dec. 4, 7 p.m. free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777. BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Bankruptcy Lawyer in the Library Library service begins at 5:45 p.m. First Wednesday of every month. 6-8 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

Food Not Bombs General Meeting Planning meeting for upcoming and ongoing Food Not Bombs meals. First [illegible] day of every month, 7:30 p.m., free. Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-0751. TheLongHaul.org.

Free Grant Writing [illegible] for Artists Learn the key components of a proposal to a foundation. Tue., Nov. 20, 5:30 p.m., free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Lawyers in the Library Services provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign-up begins at 4:45 p.m. Call 510-597-5012 to confirm event. First Tuesday of every month. 6-7 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

Living Liberally: Reading Liberally A political discussion group. First and third Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., free. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. LukasOakland.com.

Panel on Community Energy Goals Speakers include Severin Borenstein, a UC Berkeley energy expert, Al Weinrub, coordinator of the Local Clean Energy Alliance, and [illegible], representing IBEW Local 1245. Thu., Nov. 29, 6-8:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Stern Hall, 2808 [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-444-0970.

[illegible] Discussing the "new normal" of [illegible] and what's so new about it. First Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., free. [illegible] Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-595-7417. [illegible]

[illegible] Learn how to use active inquiry to further your imaginative experiences. Sat., Dec. 1, 2-5 p.m., $45. Center for Creative Inquiry, 2618 [illegible] Way, Berkeley.

SPOKEN WORD

Berkeley Slam Featuring Shayne Avec and [illegible]. Wed., Dec. 5, 8 p.m., $7. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082. StarryPlough-Pub.com.

[illegible] A weekly open mic for spoken word poets. Books and [illegible]. Sign-up begins at 8 p.m. Sundays, 8:30 p.m., free. Dorsey's Locker, 5817 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-428-1935. DorseysLocker.com.

[illegible] Poetry Slam and Open Mic Hosted by three-time Grand Slam Champion [illegible], with music by DJ [illegible]. All ages welcome. Earn points to be on the 2012 Slam team. First and third Tuesday of every month, 6:30-10 p.m., $5-$7. 888-509-8577. [illegible] Grand Lake Coffee House, 440 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-922-5587.

Poetry [illegible] A twice-monthly open mic with featured readers, hosted by [illegible], on the first and third Tuesday of every month. 7:30-9 p.m., free. World Ground Cafe, 3726 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-496-3833. WorldGroundCafe.com.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more literary events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

FOOD & DRINK

Elevation 66 also serves the usual array of pub classics. Chris Duffey

AROUND THE WORLD WITH ELEVATION 66

The El Cerrito brewery incorporates the flavors of Hawaii, Peru, Germany, Italy, and more — and pulls it off surprisingly well.

By Luke Tsai

I confess I dragged my feet on visiting Elevation 66, the newish brewery and gastropub in El Cerrito, out of fear that I'd end up burdening the world with yet another restaurant review that declares, "This place is a bar. The food shockingly isn't terrible."

Because, despite the well-documented revival of pub grub as a genre here in the Bay Area, at the end of the day a grilled cheese sandwich made with artisanal bread and local cheeses is still a grilled cheese sandwich. French fries, however gussied up, rarely soar to the level of the sublime. And while it's nice when a drinking establishment's food is tasty, that alone isn't especially newsworthy at this stage in the game.

Besides, a cursory glance at Elevation 66's website revealed a sprawling menu that seemed scattershot and overly ambitious: Could a small family-friendly bar — whose chef's background is Italian cooking — pull off a food program that crisscrosses the globe, taking detours to Hawaii, Korea, Peru, Argentina, and Germany?

The answer, it turns out, is yes. A little over a year after the brewery opened, and six months after it hired a new chef, Cindy Deetz (formerly of Berkeley's Caffe Venezia), Elevation 66 is thriving — a packed house nearly every night. And the food, which is as skillfully prepared as it is eclectic, seems to be as big a draw as the impressive selection of craft beers.

Start your culinary tour in Hawaii, a cuisine that's basically foreign to many of us here on the mainland. Elevation 66's Kalua pork tacos — a holdover from the opening chef, who was a native of Hawaii — were some of the best non-traditional tacos I've eaten. The shredded pork, slowly braised overnight in banana leaves, was exceptionally tender and juicy — literally dripping with juice — and was topped with pickled red onions and a kind of orange kimchi slurry for a bit of sourness and spice.

Next head to, where? Spain? Korea? The calamari was cut into thin strips, then grilled to smoky, tender perfection. Little dabs of green (avocado) and pink (grapefruit) purée dotted the plate, placing the restaurant squarely in the schmancy gastropub camp. And the accompanying crouton-like crispy rice fritters were spiked with Korean chili powder, making for a dish that, taken as a whole, evoked both *bibimbap* and seafood paella.

Then we were off to Germany (with nods to India) for a riff on currywurst. The house-made garlic-fennel sausages were slightly sweet — reminiscent of the kind sold by Taiwanese street vendors — and came to the table beautifully blistered. These were served over spaetzle and sauerkraut coated with a curry-infused miso paste — an unlikely flavor combination that worked.

For dessert, we stayed in Italy — Deetz's wheelhouse — for a rich chocolate budino (chocolate pudding, basically), but dressed up with candied hazelnuts and Chantilly cream.

Over the course of two visits, there were only a couple of mild disappointments: The porcini mac 'n' cheese was a cast-iron-skilletful of saucy umami goodness, but deep-fried pickles didn't make much sense as an accompaniment. And a cannellini spread, while tasty, was served with overly toasted rosemary crostini and lacked the oomph a dish containing Parmigiano-Reggiano, roasted garlic, and bacon (three of my four major food groups) ought to have had. But, really, there weren't any clunkers.

Of course, Elevation 66 also serves the usual array of pub classics, all of them reinterpreted, or at least refined, as is the fashion now. The burger, priced as it was ($14, fries included), had A-plus building blocks: a flavorful wagyu beef patty, caramelized onions, and a proper Acme pain de mie burger bun. It came with three condiments: ketchup, a house-made spicy tomato jam, and — best of all — a mustardy curry aioli. I mostly used these as dipping sauces for the fries, but about halfway through I decided to slather the aioli onto the patty itself. Burger traditionalist though I might be, I'd recommend you do the same.

We also enjoyed the fish 'n' chips, which were fairly traditional but as good a version as I've had in the East Bay — the beer batter impeccably crisp, the fish perfectly cooked. The house-made pickles, mostly cut [illegible], were crunchy, sweet, and thoroughly refreshing — maybe the best deal on the menu at just $3 an order. And there's always a grilled cheese "spontaneo" option, made spontaneously (sort of) with whatever cheeses and other add-ons the kitchen staff has on hand.

Deetz changes the menu every couple of months in keeping with the seasons. In fact, it's likely that she'll have swapped out several dishes by the time this review goes to print, though a few standbys like the burger and the fish 'n' chips will always be available.

It probably goes without saying that the food all goes well with beer. I found the crisp, mildly hoppy house-brewed Contra Costa Kolsch especially nice.

Before I went, the only thing I'd heard about Elevation 66 was that it's a kid-friendly bar — and it is that, with kid versions of several menu items available on request and a staff that's willing to accommodate strollers and booster seats and the occasional tantrum. But more than that, it's a place that aspires — with some success — to offer something for everyone: for adventurous eaters and timid ones, for biker dudes and tweens playing handheld video games while their parents finish dinner.

In the words of head brewer and co-owner David Goodteal, "The beauty and joy of this place is nobody *owns* it."

Mostly, he said, it's a place for local folks — but one where the food and drink can stand up to the scrutiny of out-of-towners, too. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

Elevation 66
10082 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito
510-525-4800
Hours: Mon.-Wed. 3 p.m.-11 p.m., Thurs. 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 a.m., Sun. 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m.
Reservations not accepted
Cash, Visa, MasterCard

Sample Menu

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Wagyu Burger	$14
House-Made Sausage	$14
Valrhona Cocoa and Malassia Budino	$7

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WHAT THE FORK

THIS WINTER, SCREAM SORBET DOES BREAKFAST (WITH BAGELS!)

Plus, Beauty's serves up the bagel's oniony cousin, the bialy.

By Luke Tsai

Winter is the cruelest season — especially if you're an ice cream shop or other purveyor of frozen treats. Even here in (relatively) balmy Northern California, the late-morning morning fog, sporadic rain, and chilly evenings don't tend to put a person in the mood for a cooling scoop of chocolate or vanilla. The folks at Oakland's Scream Sorbet (5030 Telegraph Ave.) have hit upon an innovative solution: For nearly a month, the sorbet shop has been opening early five days a week — Wednesday to Sunday, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. — as its newly launched "Winter Café."

In the mornings, instead of sorbet, Scream sells coffee and tea, a variety of house-made baked goods and nut butters, and a Manhattan-style bagel — boiled and baked in-house. In short, the shop has diversified. According to store manager Mona Kamel, Scream's sorbet sales plummet during the winter months, and in turn, production gets drastically cut back as well — by about 90 percent, he estimated.

The cafe concept came about as a way for Scream to still offer its kitchen employees their full slate of hours during the winter months. The idea, Kamel explained, is to use all the ingredients they already have sitting around in their kitchen for something other than sorbet, so what you'll find at the Winter Café will vary from day to day. Recent (and delicious-sounding) offerings include apple fritters and roasted pear-and-chocolate scones. Each of Scream's five kitchen employees is in charge of one day a week, and whoever's working on a given morning bakes whatever he or she wants.

That said, there will almost always be biscotti, some kind of cookie, and the bagels: "Manhattan style, very small and very chewy," according to Kamel. As noted, these are boiled first before baking, and are available in two permutations (salted or unsalted) at $2 each — $3 topped with a nut butter or fruit preserve.

About those nut butters: Kamel said they're made using a similar process as that used for the shop's highly acclaimed nut-based sorbets, and you'll find varieties you won't see sold at too many other places — macadamia-nut butter, cashew butter, and walnut butter.

Ultimately, the jury's still out on whether the café will become a long-term fixture at Scream. The early word seems promising, though, and according to Kamel, business has been better than expected so far. He noted that if the shop can just break even on the venture, it will have been a successful winter.

now serving
COFFEE
TEA

Scream Sorbet has new winter offerings. Luke Tsai

Beauty's Bialys

Connoisseurs might differ in their opinion on which of the Bay Area's new crop of artisan bagel shops is best, but this much is indisputable: Up until a few weeks ago, it was nearly impossible to get a hold of a respectable bialy — that lesser known, mostly unheralded cousin of the bagel — in the East Bay.

Fortunately, Beauty's Bagel Shop (3838 Telegraph Ave.) has rectified that situation. For the past several weekends, the shop has been selling a small batch of bialys, and I'm happy to report that they're as tasty and authentic a version as I've had out here on the West Coast.

Just what is a bialy, you ask? Like bagels, bialys are a round, chewy bread product of Polish-Jewish origin. But otherwise they're a completely different animal. Unlike bagels, bialys aren't boiled first before baking, and so they're flatter and less dense — more delicate when prepared properly. There is no hole in the middle of a bialy. Just a slight indentation where — and this is key — there's a generous pile of diced and sautéed onions and poppy seeds.

At risk of sounding like a heretic, I have to admit that when I was growing up in New Jersey (that underrated bagel mecca), it was the bialys that most captured my imagination — still warm, slathered with an unconscionable amount of butter, and as oniony as you'd ever want any breakfast item to be. The problem is that most bagel shops around these parts don't make bialys at all — or if they do, they're just second-rate bagels cloaked in a bialy's "onion-strewn clothing," as one recent Food Republic article put it.

Beauty's co-owner Amy Remsen got her bialy recipe from her friends at Wise Sons Jewish Delicatessen in San Francisco, who in turn got it from a baker in Los Angeles. According to Remsen, the recipe is as simple as can be — just flour, yeast, salt, and water. But the trick is in the execution. Remsen said she only tweaked the recipe to make her bialys a little smaller and puffier — less crispy than the Wise Sons version. For now, Beauty's is offering a small batch of about forty bialys on Saturdays and Sundays only. They're priced at $1.50 — same as the Beauty's bagels — and you can substitute them for the bagels in any of the various bagel sandwiches that the shop has on the menu. Or, for $2.25, you can have them as Remsen likes to eat them: topped with butter and a little bit of sea salt. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Restaurants in Richmond and El Cerrito

The Baltic
135 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-237-1000. This venerable (est. 1904) Point Richmond bar/nightspot restaurant serves German food that ranges from the tasty (bratwurst, pea soup, cheese spaetzle, goulash) to the mundane (schnitzel-battered snapper, venison), but the joint's real attraction is its attractive beer garden, rollicking atmosphere, live entertainment, and ambient century-old vibe. Get the apple strudel or the Black Forest cake for dessert. $$$

BoilerHouse Restaurant
1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond, 510-215-6000. The southern end of Richmond's old Ford Assembly plant has been converted into an impressive yet casual industrial-chic event space and restaurant where one can dine on good American grub while enjoying beautiful vistas of the harbor, the bay, and the Berkeley hills. Yummy snacks include sliders, drumettes, and sweet potato fries; skirt steak, Cajun shrimp, and a thin-crusted apple-blue-cheese pizza are fine entrée options. Desserts are just so-so, but the cocktails are tasty and inventive. Friendly-professional service. $$

DAIMO Chinese Restaurant
3288 Pierce St., Richmond, 510-527-3888. DAIMO manages to be everything to everyone. The 300-item menu contains hundreds of variations on low-priced Cantonese noodle dishes, soups, and congee (rice porridge), as well as costlier dinner entrées. The restaurant is sparkling clean, fast, and fresh, but don't expect white tablecloth style or service: It's hard to track down the overworked servers. Especially good are the roast meats and seafood, caught to order from a wall of fish tanks and prepared to your specifications. $-$$$

Hotel Mac
50 Washington Avenue, Richmond, 510-233-0576. Retro American specialties like Cobb salad, pot roast, rack of lamb, and pineapple upside-down cake share menu space with spring rolls, jerk chicken, and chai crème brûlée at this unfocused, albeit affable eatery housed within a venerable Point Richmond B&B. Although the bill of fare is littered with perfunctory, uninspired bland messes, there are enough delectable dishes to inspire a memorable meal or two: bright sparkly oysters Rockefeller, creamy shrimp tostadas touched with wasabi and cilantro, a chewy yet richly flavored prime rib, an irresistible Snickers-laden candy bar pie. The ambience is genteel yet pleasantly timeworn. $$$

The Junket
235 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, 510-524-4622. An equal magnet for 27 years, this expansive deli and grocery specializes in hearty sandwiches, mainly meats, especially German favorites such as ham and blood sausage. But across classics and three vegetarian options are available. German beer is on tap, and gleaming on the neat grocery shelves are hard-to-find packaged candies, condiments, and other imports from Germany and Britain, the owners' home countries. $

Katana Ya Ramen
10140 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-1678. No, not that stuff that costs 99 cents and comes out of a bag with tiny pockets of MSG. Katana Ya Ramen, a family-owned joint in a tiny strip mall, does ramen the old-fashioned way — a huge bowl filled with plentiful, chewy fresh noodles and stuff like roast pork, seaweed, fish cake, and corn. The restaurant's full-service menu (sushi, grilled meats, tempura, plus twelve more pages of items), reads like an encyclopedia of popular Japanese food, giving you months and months of dishes to try. $-$$

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Krung Thep
11225 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-9316. Thai-friendly Krung Thep makes a great alternative to the chain restaurants in the El Cerrito Plaza. Most of the charm comes from the owners, who know how to treat regular customers. The appetizers and salads often excel, as do the curries. $-$$

L & L Chinese Seafood
10140 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-524-7861. Experienced dim sum eaters tend to value consistency and predictability. Above all else, they crave well-executed versions of familiar favorites. For this workmanlike approach, avoid the crowds in Oakland Chinatown and head up to El Cerrito's L & L Chinese Seafood Restaurant, where you'll find low prices, a low-key atmosphere, and a standard array of dim sum specialties. Ordering off L & L's checklist menu is less fun than the cart service you'll find at other dim sum houses, but the upside is that each item is cooked to order. Highlights include the impeccably fresh shrimp-rice noodle roll, the pan-fried turnip cakes, and the aptly named "deep fried savory triangles" (sticky-sweet glutinous rice-cake ovals with a delicious ground-pork filling). You'll never have to wait for a table — heck, there's even a small parking lot. $-$$

Pho Hoa Thai
12860 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-2843. Despite the name, the pho is just okay at this neighborhood Vietnamese, a scuffed, rambling space with the faint outlines of a vague dinner lounge. Focus instead on the chao, bowls of rice porridge similar to Cantonese jook. It's a Saigon street food at its most basic, comforting slurries of long-cooked rice. *Chao ca gio hao* is studded with soft hunks of sweet-tasting white fish, canned straw mushrooms, and garlic chives. If you're really brave, try *chao huyet*, swirled with metallic-tasting pork blood. $-$$

Pikanha's
25 W. Richmond Ave., Richmond, 510-237-7585. You'll need to gear up for a night at Pikanha's, the East Bay's only continuous-service Brazilian *churrascaria*. For an eminently affordable fixed price, a fleet of revolving waiters serves you up nearly a dozen grilled meats at a breakneck pace. A few tips: Skip the hot buffet, drink plenty of water and eat a little salad with your carne. The meat comes from predictably murky sources, and there's little consistency from cut to cut. But at these prices you shouldn't expect more of an adventure than a gourmet meal. $$

Ran Kanom Thai
3288 Pierce St., Richmond, 510-524-5599. At most Thai restaurants, non-Thai diners are pretty much treated to dishes that have been muffled or otherwise dumbed down, but at this takeout food shop in the Pacific East Mall, Bangkok-born owner Salakjee Kheiul is cooking primarily for an Asian clientele, meaning that her best-at-home curries, green papaya salad, five-spice pork hock, and sticky-rice sweets present flavors more vivid (louder, less sugary, and spicier) than you find with most American Thai food. Oh, and many of the ingredients Ukrbit uses are organic, making Ran Kanom practically unique. $

SabaiDee Thai Restaurant
[illegible] San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-232-[illegible]. Kids will love the Thai-style [illegible] but their parents will appreciate its grilled meats, fragrant salads, and rich curries — the kind of fare that has made Thai cuisine the Bay

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Vientian Cafe

3801 Allendale Ave., Oakland, 510-535-2228. File this one under "worth a detour": Vientian Cafe, a Laotian restaurant situated on a completely residential stretch of East Oakland, turns out to be one of best places around for down-home Lao food. The restaurant offers a broad range of Southeast Asian cuisines, but the key to a stellar meal is to ask for the separate "Lao Specialties" menu, where almost every item costs $5 or less, without a clunker among them. Highlights include the best nam khao (crispy rice ball salad) in town, the super-crunchy baked sai oo (fermented sausage), and the mok pa — chunks of catfish that are covered in seasoning, then steamed inside a banana leaf until the whole thing coheres together like a terrine: tender, succulent, and incredibly fragrant. Round out your meal with an order of sticky rice, the staple of Lao cuisine. $-$$

Souls Restaurant

[illegible] Oakland, 510-777-[illegible]. Although it's pretty far removed from Oakland's main commercial hubs, Soul's is one of the biggest — and nicest — soul food restaurants in town, with plush upholstered seating, a private banquet room, and its own parking lot. The food, meanwhile, is the real deal, like what someone's grandma would serve in Georgia or Louisiana: excellent fried chicken, perfectly cooked collard greens, unctuous oxtails, and Thanksgiving-worthy sweet yams. Prices are affordable, and portions are enormous — especially if you come on Sundays, when there's a sumptuous buffet spread ($10.95 for breakfast, $18.95 for dinner). Just to be clear: For a little more than ten bucks, you get all-you-can-eat fried chicken wings — and they're delicious. That alone should be enough to get thee to East Oakland on a Sunday morning. $$

Borgo Italia

499 9th St., Oakland, 510-251-1008. The owners of Borgo Italia say they've sought to create the kind of unpretentious, well-rooted, family-run trattoria that you find everywhere in the Italian countryside — a place serving cucina casalinga, or simple home cooking. It's the kind of thing every Italian restaurateur talks about, but there is a ring of authenticity here. And even though the carb-heavy menu is somewhat inconsistent, what's good is really good. Standouts include the torta fritta emiliana — ravioli-shaped squares of puffy fried dough that turn out to be the perfect vehicle for cured meats — and risotto that's cooked the proper Italian way. Most importantly, don't sleep on pastry chef Franco Cardelli's creamy, not-too-sweet warm doughnuts, the cornball-rich, eggy panna cotta, and some of the best tiramisu in town. $$-$$$

The Local Butcher Shop

1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6328. Set in Berkeley's tony Gourmet Ghetto, The Local Butcher Shop is among a vanguard of new shops working exclusively with whole animals — no prepackaged cuts. All of the meat is pasture-raised and comes from within a 150-mile radius of Berkeley. With access to such first-rate meat, it's no surprise that the lunchtime sandwich program is also excellent. Every day, Kel Troughton, the shop's full-time sandwich chef, creates a single sandwich option based on what's in season. And it's always something different, so you could go an entire year without eating the exact same thing twice. The shop's moist, full-flavored roast beef is worth making a special detour — but really, whether you're talking Pork Milanese or roasted black-pepper pork, there isn't a bad sandwich to be had. $

Star Meats

2068 Claremont Ave., Berkeley, 510-652-7712. Located in back of Star Grocery, Star Meats is an independently run, old-school butcher shop that sells exclusively hormone- and antibiotic-free meat. Among the shop's many virtues, neighborhood folks are especially fond of the stellar lunchtime sandwich menu. In particular, don't miss the Fat Albert, a generous portion of rare house-roasted Niman Ranch top round, cheddar, and arugula, served on a La Farine rustic baguette. The kicker: a dollop of smoky chipotle mayo. Even though the roast beef is the only deli meat that's cooked in-house, other sandwiches — like the Goodfella (a riff on a classic Italian sub) and the off-menu Dirty Bird (turkey pastrami, curry garlic aioli) — are well worth checking out. $

Area's favorite comfort food. SaWadDee's sour and hot corn yum is one of the best in the area, and its salty-sweet sticky rice with mango is the perfect finish for the meal. $-$$

Sushi Sho

1179 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-525-1800. Eating at Sushi Sho is dictated by idiosyncratic "rules" and restrictions: No reservations, no seating except at the bar, no extra wasabi proffered aside from what chef Akitoshi Kawata ("Aki-san") has already placed in each piece of sushi. And there's not much on the menu apart from traditional, simply-prepared sushi. Despite those limitations — or perhaps because of them — Sushi Sho is one of the best sushi restaurants in the Bay Area. You can't go wrong with Kawata's omakase, but the cold-smoked salmon and the mentaiko (salted cod roe) are particularly stunning. And the "unakyu-maki Special A" roll perfectly blends the smokiness of grilled eel, the salty pop of flying fish roe, the crunch of cucumber, and the creaminess of avocado. $$$

Taqueria La Bamba

12345 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-215-2188. Taqueria La Bamba dishes up the real thing: homestyle Salvadoran food and respectable Mexican antojitos. Salt can be a problem with the Mexican-style meats. Come here for pupusas, Salvadoran tamales, creamy refried beans, and heartbreakingly good tortillas, patted out and grilled to order. $

Up & Under

2 West Richmond Ave., Point Richmond, 510-778-1393. North America's first rugby pub serves up substantial and often tasty grub in a wonderfully romantic setting. Filet mignon sliders, the five-sausage platter, the pulled-pork sandwich, and cheesy scalloped potatoes are among the standouts; other dishes are on the heavily breaded side. Get the Muddy Cleat (molten chocolate cake with chocolate sauce and chocolate ice cream) for dessert. The pressed-copper ceiling, hand-wrought redwood tables, and wall-to-wall rugby paraphernalia are eye-catching, to say the least, while the Wednesday night pub quiz is loads of fun. Homey, family-friendly atmo. $-$$

Yuet Foo Seafood Restaurant

10355 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-6847. Pay attention to the name, because Yuet Foo's strength is in its seafood. This Cantonese restaurant, an oasis of sophistication plopped down in the middle of San Pablo Avenue's strings of strip malls, has a huge menu, but the simpler dishes outshine the fancy. Have a crab or rock cod fished out of the aquarium and cooked to order, or order a fried or roasted chicken and stir-fried greens. $-$$ ●

Price Key

Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$20; $$$ — $20-$50; $$$$ — more than $50

The Bank Club in Emeryville is an oasis of old among the new. Ellen Cushing

LAST CALL

LIKE CHEERS

The unassuming charm of Andy's Bank Club Café

By Ellen Cushing

This year marks the fiftieth that Andy's Bank Club Cafe has been sitting on the same stretch of San Pablo, but there probably won't be a party or anything — ostentation is not really Andy's thing, nor, it seems, is much of anything that might draw too much attention to the place. Out in front, the "DY'S" has fallen off so the sign just says "An Bank Club" like some kind of cruel grammatical joke. Twin flags — American and Greek — lend the place a certain sense of ceremony that it may or may not deserve. The walls are papered with pencil drawings of Hollywood stars and framed photographs of men holding freshly caught fish and a custom sign — "Andy's Bank Club: Helping Ugly People Get Laid Since 1962." Behind the bar: Several trellises of plastic grapes, a small gallery of yellowing photos, a ceramic mug shaped and painted like a pair of improbably round breasts, an urn filled with a friend and former customer's ashes ("I hope that doesn't gross you out," says Nick, son of Andy, after he explains this.) All the liquors have their prices marked on the bottle, written in Sharpie on a piece of masking tape (also yellowing); your best bet is, as usual, draft beer — in this case, Trumer ($3) and exactly nothing else, though there are a few others in bottles. In an adjacent room is Wally's, a Lebanese place owned by a friend of Andy's nephew through the strange alchemy by which these things happen. Wally's has become one of those hole-in-the-wall places that gets colonized by Chowhounds and hipsters and experience-hunters, exalted on Yelp and perpetually crowded. The Bank Club, suffice it to say, has not.

Andy's Bank Club Cafe
3900 San Pablo Ave
Emeryville. 510-652-4381

Andy, his wife, and Nick all live upstairs. Most nights Andy sits at the bar, beer in hand and baseball cap on head, shooting the shit with whoever happens to be in the vicinity. Ray's been coming here seventeen years; there's a picture of him, beaming and huge, on the wall, back from his bodybuilding days, back when black men were still shut out of the big contests. At one end of the bar sits a man who explains he used to be Andy's father's paperboy back in the day; at the other, two women sing along, glassy-eyed, to the Christmas carol playing on the jukebox. Everybody knows each other — "like Cheers," a man with a West African accent explains, unbidden.

You see where this is going. It's tempting to make a metaphor out of the Bank Club, or at least to mythologize it a little: an oasis of old among the new, a reminder, in beer and brick and mortar, of what things might've been like before Bay Street's towers loomed large and bar owners dug through flea markets to find yellowing photos instead of just allowing them to get that way on their own — one of the East Bay's few remaining authentic black bars, made all the more so now that it's grafted onto the kind of place where everyone puts their iPhone on the table while they eat: a celebration of un-PC dishware and willfully tacky decorations and old men with stories to tell, all placed in sharp relief against the sterility of circa 2012 Emeryville.

But the thing about bars like the Bank Club is the regulars don't love it for any of those reasons. They love it because they love Andy, or because it's the best place around to get a cheap beer and shoot some pool after work, or because the company's good. They've been coming to the Bank Club for ten, fifteen, twenty, thirty years — since long before the condos even existed, since long before there was anything to sharply relieve it. When people come in confused and looking for Wally's, they respectfully direct them in the right direction, and when asked about throwing some kind of fiftieth anniversary party, Andy just shrugs. And when overeager strangers try to steer the conversation toward real estate or irony or gentrification, he responds in really the best way possible: with a clap on the back and calls for another round. ■

Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

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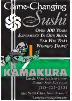

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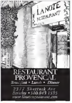

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Food Play Fresh Approach hosts a hands-on cooking class using fresh specialty fare. Sunday of every month, 11, 11:30 a.m. & 1 p.m., free. FreshApproachFoodPlay.org, PCFMA.com. Jack London Square Farmers' Market, Webster and Embarcadero, Oakland.

James and Caitlin Freeman Discussing The Blue Bottle Craft of Coffee, a guide to selecting, brewing, and enjoying the perfect cup. Thu., Nov. 29, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7777, BooksInc.net/Berkeley

Make Your Own Bitters Learn to make bitters at this hands-on class taught by Jaymes MacKinnon of Fifty Bees. Sun., Dec. 2, 3-5:30 p.m., $80. BioFuel Oasis, 1441 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. BioFuelOasis.com.

Spice & Thai Workshop Enjoy a lesson on thai spices, a demonstration, and a tasting. Sun., Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., $28. University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755, BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Alameda Farmers' Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

BAHIA Farm Fresh Market Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free. 510-548-1704, EcologyCenter.org. Bay Area Hispano Institute for Advancement, 1758 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-525-1463, BAHIAinc.org.

BYA Farm Fresh Market Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free. 510-548-1704, EcologyCenter.org. Berkeley Youth Alternatives, 1255 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-845-9010, BYAonline.org.

EcologyCenterFarm Fresh Market Community Oakland Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m., free. 510-548-1704, EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-5150, CI.Berkeley.CA.US.

Fruitvale Farmers' Market With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, Stand specialty and more. Accepts WIC and EBT. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-535-6920. Fruitvale Village, 3401 E. 12th St. (at Fruitvale BART), Oakland. 510-534-6980, UnityCouncil.org.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market The weekly market hosts more than 70 Oakland prepared foods, and arts and crafts vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 800-897-3276, SplashPad.org/farmersmarket.html. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275, OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/Default.asp.

Hayward City Hall Farmers' Market A farmers' market featuring locally grown and produced fruits from more 25 farmers and specialty food purveyors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. 800-897-3276, AgriculturalInstitute.org. Hayward City Hall, 777 B St., Hayward. 510-583-4000, CI.Hayward.CA.Us.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a nursery, fresh flowers, an organic chocolatier, free products, fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters, breads, fresh pasta, and products. Surprises. The market also hosts live music and entertainment. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-847-8801, KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. Colusa Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel Farmers' Market With certified organic Oakland farm J&P Organic Farm and a youth-led produce food booth called the Purple Lawn Cafe. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-482-1580, FoodCommunityCulture.org. Laurel District Farmers Market, 4273 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Montclair Village Farmers' Market Featuring organic produce and prepared foods. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. MontclairVillage.com/farmers_market.html. Downtown Montclair Village, LaSalle and Moraga Aves., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market With breads, specialty foods, all-organic produce and more for sale, along with special programs and events. WIC and EBT accepted. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

North Oakland Flea N' Farmers' Market With a healthy cafe and commercial kitchen space, seasonal organic produce from Bay Area farms, and flea market goods. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., free. PhatBeetsProduce.org. Phat Beets Saturday Farmers' Market, 942 Stanford Ave., Oakland.

Produce Community Produce Stand With organic local produce, free products and cooking demonstrations. Wednesdays, 2-5:30 p.m. Continues through June 26, free. St. [illegible] School, 875 41st St., Oakland. 510-653-2227, ETMOF.org.

Old Oakland Farmers' Market Oakland seasonal growers, breads, and other organic foods, along with plenty of products. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Old Oakland Farmers' Market, 9th St. between Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. UrbanVillageOnline.com/markets/old-oakland

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market With seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, pastries, cut flowers, specialty foods, yoga classes, live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, 88 Broadway, Oakland.

Richmond Farmers' Market With fresh, locally grown fruit, live chickens, eggs, and other produce. WIC and SNAP accepted. Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., free. RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. and Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Richmond Main Street Farmers' Market With fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, flowers, and a range of other agricultural and culinary products from local farmers. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-236-4050, RichmondMainStreet.org. Nevin Plaza, 11th Street and Nevin Avenue, Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5150, CI.Berkeley.ca.us.

South Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh produce and other food for sale. Tuesdays, 2-6:30 p.m., Adeline and 63rd sts., Berkeley. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org.

Temescal Farmers' Market California Oakland farmers offer produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, fresh flowers, and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. 510-745-7100. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

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MR. PEEPERS AND THE BLONDS

High times with the Master of Suspense (*Hitchcock*) and two unlikely girlfriends (*Starlet*)

By Kelly Vance

Anthony Hopkins transforms into Alfred Hitchcock through sheer actorliness, rather than makeup.

Before anything else about *Hitchcock* we need to talk about Anthony Hopkins' impersonation. We'd think that distinctive voice would be the easiest hurdle for an actor — after all, anyone who's seen *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* even once can muster a drawling, sepulchral "Good evening." But it's more difficult than it seems.

On camera, Hopkins' vocal imitation of the Master of Suspense works just fine. The actor who successfully channeled such diverse screen personas as Richard Nixon, Pablo Picasso, and Prof. Van Helsing overpowers our disbelief in five minutes' time through sheer actorliness rather than with makeup or belly-and-jowls prosthesis. We simply "see" Hopkins, a leaner Englishman with a reedier voice and clipped diction, as the pithy, rotund, jovial/macabre personality who's as well known today as he was when he died in 1980, and that's that. When Hopkins' Hitchcock is speaking off-camera, however, we catch a strange whiff of true menace. The disturbing intonations of Hannibal Lecter sometimes creep in.

Maybe that was intentional. *Hitchcock* is a collaboration of Sacha Gervasi, who directed the hilarious documentary *Anvil! The Story of Anvil* and John J. McLaughlin, the screenwriter of *Black Swan*, with Ivan Reitman among the producers and Danny Elfman handling the musical score. These filmmakers are just as fascinated with the legend of Hitchcock, his working methods, and his eccentric, somewhat sinister personal traits, as they are with the accuracy of the playacting. Taking off from journalist Stephen Rebello's book *Alfred Hitchcock and the Making of Psycho*, the film goes to the germ of the mystique, focusing on Hitch's biggest hit, arguably his most misunderstood movie. The concept seems to be that if we "get" *Psycho*, we grasp Hitchcock.

The relationship of the director (Hopkins) and his wife/editor/writing consultant/muse Alma Reville (Helen Mirren) is up front as they sculpt their adaptation of Robert Bloch's novel. Combining slightly awkward inserts of the "haunting" of the director by the spirit of Ed Gein (Michael Wincott) — the serial killer who inspired the book and film — with scenes of pre-production discussions at the established studio as well as the press are revolted by the story of a maniac who keeps body parts as souvenirs. We know now that Hitchcock considered *Psycho* a comedy, but in Gervasi's backstage drama, Hitch is taking a gamble that moviegoers are ready to follow him up that hill into the spooky gingerbread house, then up those stairs to get the pants scared off them. He wonders, "What if somebody really good made a horror picture?"

We're ready too, to be shown that Hitch, the ultimate voyeuristic everyman, has installed his own peephole on the Universal soundstage, the better to eyeball actresses Janet Leigh (Scarlett Johansson) and Vera Miles (Jessica Biel). The most renowned director in the world is a fat old man who still has a thing for beautiful young women — a fact not lost on his wife, who carries on her own innocently flirtatious working arrangement with a writer named Whitfield Cook (Danny Huston). Meanwhile, ultra bankable Hitch steamrolls past movie mogul Lew Wasserman (Michael Stuhlbarg), leading man Anthony Perkins (James D'Arcy), and a shocked censor (the always reliable Kurtwood Smith) by financing the production himself.

Hitchcock

Directed by Sacha Gervasi. With Anthony Hopkins and Helen Mirren. Opens Friday.

Starlet

Directed by Sean Baker. With Dree Hemingway and Stella Maeve. Opens Friday.

The gamble pays off when audiences eat it up by the thousands. Hitchcock's position as the most popular filmmaking artist of all time — Chaplin, Ford, Welles, Scorsese, and Spielberg notwithstanding — is cemented into place, and we're still seeing the reverberations in everything from *The Blair Witch Project* to *The Innkeepers*.

Alfred and Alma's love story is a playful one, the tale of a pair of sophisticated Europeans who hit the jackpot in Hollywood. Hitch's renowned predilection for cool blonds takes on added sizzle when we consider that not long after *Psycho* was made, Helen Mirren launched her career as a voluptuous blond sexpot whose screen exploits made Janet Leigh look prudish — check out Michael Powell's *Age of Consent*. Gervasi's *Hitchcock*, true to its subject, is full of unexpected humor gift-wrapped as a screaming, behind-the-scenes shockeroo, but the soul of the film is in the home life of a man who takes a book and a bottle of claret into the bathtub, and the routinely uncredited soul mate who helped him shape his films. Try to remember that next time you step into the shower.

The May-December relationship is one of the oldest plot frameworks in movies, but Sean Baker's amiably oblique *Starlet* finds fresh ways to tell a familiar story.

One blindingly sunny morning in the early end of the San Fernando Valley we drop in on Jane (Dree Hemingway), a slender, attractive twentysomething blond. Jane shares a house with Melissa (Stella Maeve), a moronic would-be hottie who spends most of her time playing video games and smoking dope with Mikey (James Ransone), an even dumber guy who's always promoting something with a tweaker's zeal.

At a yard sale, Jane buys a Thermos bottle from a grumpy senior citizen named Sadie (85-year-old neophyte actress Besedka Johnson) and guiltily initiates a friendship with her, helping the mutually wary Sadie with things like trips to the grocery. The friendship blossoms. We won't say exactly why Jane feels so guilty. Like the question of how the two cute housemates support themselves, it comes out as the story unfolds. Let's just say that they're in a branch of the entertainment industry. After all, this is the Valley.

Jane has a pet Chihuahua called Starlet, even though he's a male, so he's a Starlet and so is his mistress. The screenplay by director Baker and writer/actor Chris Bergoch performs an appropriate brand of low-key indie magic on Jane and Sadie as they play bingo, talk about Sadie's deceased gambler husband and together encounter the dangers of lower-middle-class life in the beat-out suburbs. Character actor Karren Karagulian lends a succinct touch of that danger as Jane and Melissa's boss, alongside cameos by real-life porn stars Asa Akira and Manuel Ferrara.

Both Ms. Hemingway — daughter of Mariel, great-granddaughter of Ernest, and a former RADA student in London — and Ms. Johnson are blessed with camera-ready faces, and in their mouths even the most stripped-down dialogue assumes stealthy importance. We can't wait to see them work again, and the same goes for Baker. ●

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J.R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

OPENING

The Collection A hooded, [illegible] slaughters a nightclub full of revelers, then carts off a select few, including Elena (Emma Fitzpatrick), daughter of a [illegible] rich man, to his secret lair for more leisurely cruelty. The screenwriting *Saw* brothers Marcus Dunstan and Patrick Melton win no points for originality, but this splatter [illegible] Jason [illegible] to provide gore, [illegible] or laughs, take your pick. And it also possesses the [illegible] of lane and place. So it's not half bad. Costarring Josh Stewart and Christopher McDonald. (82 min.) (K.V.)

Hitchcock Anthony Hopkins' slyly impersonation of Alfred Hitchcock is only the starting point for two playfully watchable movie-movie tribute to the Master of Suspense, set during the production of *Psycho* in 1960. The main job for director Sacha Gervasi (*Anvil: The Story of Anvil*) is to introduce the cast-within-the-cast — Scarlett Johansson as Janet Leigh, James D'Arcy as Anthony Perkins, Jessica Biel as Vera Miles — and to let them play off each other. But the soul of the film is in the homey relationship of Hitch and his wife/editor/writing consultant/muse Alma Reville (a radiant Helen Mirren), bickering their way to screen immortality in shaping Hitchcock's biggest box office hit. Worth seeing for its unexpected humor, especially in the scenes with Universal and the censor (Kurtwood Smith). Screenplay by John J. McLaughlin (*Black Swan*), adapted from a book by Stephen Rebello. (98 min.) (K.V.)

Killing Them Softly Good actors, [illegible] Andrew Dominik's stab at a Tarantino-esque movie cliché pie has a fine cast: James Gandolfini, Ray Liotta, Ben Mendelsohn, Richard Jenkins, Scoot McNairy, and Sam Shepard to give Brad Pitt something to bounce off of, but the dialogue and pacing are way off. It's difficult to believe that novelist George V. Higgins (*The Friends of Eddie Coyle*) had anything to do with such a cropped screenplay. But writer-director Dominik (*The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*) obviously had his fingers in the soup. A few bright moments, but only a few. (97 min.) (K.V.)

Starlet In a beat-out corner of the San Fernando Valley, a questionably employed, twentyish "would-be actress" named Jane (Dree Hemingway, great-granddaughter of Ernest) forms an unlikely bond with a cranky octogenarian widow named Sadie (Besedka Johnson, in her first screen role). The wit in director Sean Baker's [illegible] with mood and setting, as we learn more about the [illegible] and the slightly dangerous world they inhabit, plus characterizing work by Stella Maeve, James Ransone and Karren Karagulian as Jane's associates. We could call it "Boogie Days" and not be far off the mark. Written by Baker and Chris Bergoch. (103 min.) (K.V.)

ONGOING

Anna Karenina All the busy "stageiness" added by director Joe Wright and screenwriter Tom Stoppard can't save this gooey remake of the Leo Tolstoy classic from being the biggest overstuffed comfy chair of the season. Wright go-to girl Keira Knightley, of the [illegible] jaw (*Atonement*), plays the tragic free-thinking Karenina as more of a [illegible] than as the queen of [illegible], and Aaron Taylor-Johnson's inconsequential Count Vronsky is a pale light at the leaders. That leaves Jude Law, as Karenin, and the generally hard-working supporting cast — Domhnall Gleeson, Kelly Macdonald, Alicia Vikander, Matthew Macfadyen — [illegible] to [illegible]

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the lead. The Wright-Stoppard-Knightley blowout suffers from small Broadway-show-itis, a riot of froufrou, an avalanche of whirligigs, and yet the protagonists might as well be robots. Too frantic, too gilded, too managed. All this *Karenina* were to slip away, we see a real Russian film. (130 min.) (K.V.)

Argo Ben Affleck outsmarts, see, 1980, than we needed to know about the 1979-80 US Embassy hostage crisis in Iran, courtesy actor-director Affleck, who casts himself as a resourceful CIA "exfil" specialist with a daring plan — to rescue six American Embassy staffers who escaped rampaging mobs of Islamist revolutionaries in Tehran, and then to smuggle the six out of the country disguised as a Hollywood film crew scouting locations for a goofy-but-spurious sci-fi epic called *Argo*. Writer Chris Terrio's screenplay (adapted from Joshuah Bearman's *Wired* magazine article) bears a superficial resemblance to the nutty-but-true drama as in *Charlie Wilson's War*, the 20th century the heavier drained out of it. And we're left with a routinely tense procedural race against the clock. The nice comic character work by John Goodman and Alan Arkin — as movie producers arranging the dummy production — is forced to take a backseat to the national security busted, since I have seen the movie my election. (120 min.) (K.V.)

Beasts of the Southern Wild Films like this come out of a dream: this wondrous, hallucinatory family story by filmmaker Benh Zeitlin. Six-year-old Hushpuppy (played beautifully by first-timer Quvenzhané Wallis) and her beaten-down father Wink (Dwight Henry, also a non-actor) live a precarious existence in a Louisiana Gulf Coast wetlands village called the Bathtub, surrounded by colorful but ramshackle neighbors and haunted, in Hushpuppy's mind, by nightmares of thundering beasts animals. But big changes are coming. The child's adventures — adapted by Zeitlin and Lucy Alibar from the latter's stage play *Juicy & Delicious* — take on the trappings of a fairy tale. A child's point of view of a place ever the scene rapidly growing bleak and threatening. The chaotic or sports are filled by perfectly cast amateurs, and the sound score by Zeitlin and Dan Romer is superb. A one-of-a-kind experience. (93 min.) (K.V.)

Chasing Ice Beautiful photography, chilling information. The Bay Area fact on the world's vanishing glaciers and the resulting rising sea levels. It took seven years photographer James Balog as he and his team spend seven years capturing time-lapse and pace of glacial meltdowns in Greenland, Iceland, Alaska, and Montana. Shot in high-def from daring vantage points, the "calving" of enormous chunks of dying glaciers is both frightening and exhilarating to behold. Says one expert: "The story is in the ice." Directed by Jeff Orlowski and written by Mark Monroe. (12 min.) (K.V.)

Cloud Atlas Co-directors co-adapters Tom Tykwer, Lana Wachowski and Andy Wachowski offer an imaginative set of cinematic stage to author David Mitchell's fanciful, diverse, ambitious, amazing novel, and the result is irresistible. Six interlocking tales spanning five centuries; past, the night touch of where-there is and Enlightenment (from the black siblings, reflex) assumes, a huge, well chosen cast (Jim Sturgess, Korean doll-faced Doona Bae, Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Jim Broadbent, the remarkable Hugo Weaving, Hugh Grant, Ben Whishaw, Susan Sarandon, Keith David, James D'Arcy) and a social-struggle through-story that only grows stronger as we weave our way from 19th-century New Zealand to post-apocalyptic Hawaii. A few words of advice for perplexed audiences caught in the crosscurrents: Relax. Let the cloud book find you. You'll be happy you did. (172 min.) (K.V.)

Flight Even though the first part of it contains one of the all-time airliner-in-trouble sequences, this drama mostly concerns itself with the phenomenon of the drunken personality embodied by alcohol-and-cocaine enthusiast Whip Whitaker, pilot of the plane in question (Denzel Washington), and Nicole (Kelly Reilly), the hard-luck blonde who he meets while they share a cigarette together in a hospital stairwell. Their performances are of the solid gold variety, even when screenwriter John Gatins' social-problem mechanism kicks into high gear in the film's half. That 2:00-ish message is the price we have to pay for one of Washington's subtlest mature career star turns, directed with minimal editorializing by Robert Zemeckis (a

Beasts of the Southern Wild

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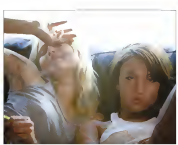

Starlet

(his first live-action film post-2000's *Cast Away*) Don Cheadle, John Goodman, Melissa Leo, and Bruce Greenwood lend vivid support as, respectively, a lawyer, a one-man pharmacy, a fellow recovering alcoholic, and Whip's straight-arrow ally. A rich portrait of early 21st-century America, for better or worse. (142 min.) (K.V.)

Hotel Transylvania It's a hotel for monsters, far away from their enemies, the humans. The owner is Dracula (voice of Adam Sandler), whose adolescent 118-year-old daughter Mavis (Selena Gomez), also a vampire, becomes smitten with a human backpacker named Jonathan (Andy Samberg) who inadvertently drops in and is forced to masquerade as a monster to avoid being eaten. The lavishly produced Sony animated comedy's message is ultimately one of tolerance — the living and the living dead really can meet and fall in love. Awww. The grounds were obviously inspired by the work of Tim Burton; the story line is the same as any pre-teen romance. Lotsa fart, pee, and poop jokes for the kids, and there's a fleight gag for the Budapest. Perfectly produced. Directed by veteran TV toon Genndy Tartakovsky from a story and screenplay written by five scribes. (92 min.) (K.V.)

A Late Quartet Members of a string quartet struggle to stay together in the midst of snafus, lust, and competing egos. Starring Philip Seymour Hoffman, Christopher Walken, and Catherine Keener. (105 min.)

Life of Pi An Indian teenage boy named Pi Patel (played by first-timer Suraj Sharma) is cast adrift in a lifeboat in the middle of the Pacific Ocean with a huge Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. How Pi and Richard got there and what happens next makes one of the most thrilling dramatic shipwreck adventures of all time. But we have to be able to let it go at that and enjoy director Ang Lee's 3D spectacle on only one lonely level. The visual magic is quite compelling. The plot point, adapted by screenwriter David Magee from the novel by Yann Martel, boils it into two sentences. And we find ourselves waiting for a third act that never arrives. Instead just admire the grandiose images for their movie-movie-ness. Enthusiasts of Ang Lee's earlier dreams (*Brokeback Mountain*, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, *The Ice Storm*) may well feel they're being treated to a straight tiger story. Co-starring Adil Hussain, Irrfan Khan, and Gérard Depardieu. (127 min.) (K.V.)

Lincoln Although it's weighed down by the "full Spielberg" treatment — not to mention the gravity of the US Civil War and the issue of racial inequality — Steven Spielberg's dramatization of the last months of Abraham Lincoln's presidency is made immediate by Daniel Day-Lewis' performance in the title role. The action centers around Lincoln's 1865 press to get the 13th Amendment, forbidding slavery, passed through an incredibly divided and boisterous Congress as the war between the states was coming to an end. We're around for every wrinkle of the behind-the-scenes maneuvering, featuring flavorful character playing by a huge cast including Tommy Lee Jones, David Strathairn, Sally Field, James Spader, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, John Hawkes, Jared Harris, Jackie Earle Haley, Bruce McGill, Hal Holbrook, et al. Spielberg doesn't spare the obvious John Ford touches nor his usual overstatement, but it's Day-Lewis' Lincoln who makes the difference. We end up believing in the actor, in Lincoln himself, and his mission, if not exactly the self-imposed pomp and circumstance of the history lesson. And yet, what present filmmaker would have the gall to tackle this? Screenplay by Tony Kushner, adapting Doris Kearns Goodwin's book. (149 min.) (K.V.)

The Man With the Iron Fists RZA (yes, *that* RZA, of Wu-Tang fame) makes his directorial debut

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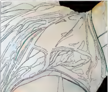

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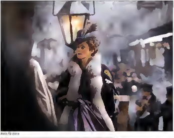

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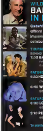

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with this actioner about a clan of soldiers and assassins who invade a lower Chinese village on the hunt for gold. Written by RZA and Eli Roth; starring Lucy Liu, Russell Crowe, and Cung Le. (96 min.)

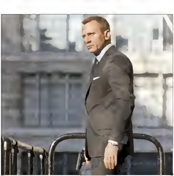
The Perks of Being a Wallflower Everyone has seen this scenario a million times. But as novelist and [illegible] writer-director Stephen Chbosky's iridescent coming-of-age teen [illegible] [illegible] -directed spell over its protagonist, a bookish, reclusive nerd named Charlie (Logan Lerman), a better-class team of senior class sophisticates who adopt him into their clique (Ezra Miller and Emma Watson), and the usual hormone-maddened teens who all look about 25. The three principals have what it takes to make us follow them around gladly, and the [illegible] is hazy, "past" defined by the presence of David Bowie mixtapes, fireworks, and The Rocky Horror Picture Show — is snap, snap, and reassuring, if that's what we're actually in the mood for. (103 min.) (K.V.)

Pitch Perfect Musical comedy-drama about a college a cappella singing group. Directed by Jason Moore; written by Kay Cannon and Mickey Rapkin; starring Anna Kendrick, Brittany Snow and Rebel Wilson. (112 min.)

Red Dawn Remake of John Milius' 1984 Russians-invade-America actioner is possibly even dumber than the original, as North Korean bullies paratroop onto Spokane, Washington and take over, forcing a ragtag band of local youths to take to the hills as partisan actioner fighters. Chris Hemsworth and Josh Hutcherson lead the [illegible]. In between the firefights and the [illegible] inspirational speeches, it occurs to us that if the US were [illegible] invaded and all industrial production halted, there would still be enough Pepsi and beer on hand to last for at least ten years. So there's really nothing to worry about. Dan Bradley directs, from a screenplay by Carl Ellsworth and Jeremy Passmore, adapted from Milius and Kevin Reynolds' original. (114 min.) (K.V.)

Rise of the Guardians What do they guard, in this gorgeously produced animated fairy tale? Children's sense of wonder, their hopes, and artwork. But Jack Frost (voice of Chris Pine), Santa Claus (Alec Baldwin, playing Russian), the Australian Easter Bunny (Hugh Jackman), Tooth Fairy (Isla Fisher) and the mute Sandman need to combat the bad plans of Pitch Black, a.k.a. the Bogeyman (Jude Law), whose mission is to bring nightmares. DreamWorks' holiday kid fantasy has wondrous artwork and sound engineering, plus a generous world-view courtesy David Lindsay-Abaire's screenplay adapted from a book and films by William Joyce. Directed by ex-motion artist-turned-filmmaker Peter Ramsey. (97 min.) (K.V.)

The Sessions John Hawkes, Helen Hunt, and



Skyfall

William H. Macy contrived to turn a potentially weepy/grotesque story into a humorous, genuinely moving drama about making the best of an unfortunate situation. [illegible] portrays Mark O'Brien, a [illegible] paralyzed man who hires a professional sexual surrogate (Hunt) to give him his first erotic experience on the advice of his spiritual counselor, a [illegible] Catholic priest (Macy). Not exactly the most appealing scenario to imagine, but the playing of the three principals, along with witty dialogue by writer-director Ben Lewin [illegible] turns it into one of the romantic stories imaginable. Set in Berkeley and based on true events. (95 min.) (K.V.)

Silver Linings Playbook Five hundred-percent predictable, yet strangely kind of fun. Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper manage to rise above the material — but Lawrence more than Cooper and only temporarily — as a newly de-institutionalized bi-polar [illegible] named Pat (Cooper) and a similarly lonely neighborhood [illegible] named Tiffany (Lawrence) discover romantic commonalities in the working-class suburbs of Philadelphia. [illegible] Obvious Oscar bait, hampered/bolstered by the slapstick support of Robert De Niro and Jacki Weaver as Pat's [illegible] parents and [illegible] David O. Russell's penchant for dialogue delivered at full roar, and yet [illegible] a Big Street Context for the young lovers to enter. Try to picture *All in the Family* with pills. [illegible] adapted the screenplay from Matthew Quick's novel. (122 min.) (K.V.)

Skyfall Grand visually plush [illegible] outrageously fruity villain put this 50th-anniversary James Bond spy adventure over the top and into the "reboot" zone. The situation: Bond (haggard Daniel Craig) returns after a worse-than-usual on-the-job injury and finds that his boss M (Judi Dench), government security chief Mallory (Ralph Fiennes) and the [illegible] feel he's over the hill. So he immediately goes to Shanghai and Scotland on the trail of bad guy Silva (Bardem), an ex-MI6 agent with a grudge. Director Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*, *Revolutionary Road*) [illegible] the baroque Bond brand adroitly, even if the story and dialogue — by Neal Purvis, Robert Wade, and John Logan — aren't quite up to 2012 international standards. Really, all you need to keep this franchise breathing is a believable Bond, a reasonable villain, and a glib Q (Ben Whishaw). Also with Naomie Harris as Bond's right-hand woman, Bérénice Marlohe as a honey trap, and Albert Finney as Kincade, the old Scots retainer of the Bond family seat. (143 min.) (K.V.)

Taken 2 Sequel to the 2008 thriller, this time following Bryan Mills (Liam Neeson) as his family is taken hostage in Turkey. Directed by Olivier Megaton; written by Luc Besson and Robert Mark Kamen; also Famke Janssen and Maggie Grace. (91 min.)

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 2 Vampire-werewolf squabbles and a half human baby daughter come to the married life of newly vamped Bella (Kristen Stewart), her undead husband Edward (Robert Pattinson), and Bella's ex boyfriend Jacob (Taylor Lautner) in the "last" episode in the phenomenally [illegible] young-romance series. There is no reason for anyone not already a fan to see it — but if they did, they'll see a carefully groomed coterie of [illegible] teenagers, [illegible] and just the right touch of gothic monstering. Among the best to [illegible] are Michael Sheen (evil vamp [illegible]) and [illegible]. Directed in dull, hushed tones by Bill Condon (*Kinsey*, *Gods and Monsters*). Screenplay by Melissa Rosenberg, from the novel by Stephenie Meyer. (115 min.) (K.V.)

Wreck-It Ralph Disney's big animated holiday tale [illegible] following a video-game villain who wants to turn his life around. Directed by Rich Moore; written by Jennifer Lee and Phil Johnston; starring the voices of John C. Reilly, Jane Lynch, and Sarah Silverman. (108 min.)

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

The Phantom Lathes (40 min., [illegible]). [illegible] in English with English subtitles. With an introduction by screenwriter Barry Gifford. Wild at Heart: Writer Barry Gifford (Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, 7:00)

Investigation of a Flame (43 min., 2003) (Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, Berkeley, 7:00)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

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LANDMARK THEATRES

Shattuck

To Chris Marker, an Unsent Letter (78 min., 2012). [illegible] in person. At Jerry's Eat: A Tribute to Chris Marker (PFA, 7:00)

Miracle on 34th Street (96 min., 1947). Paramount Movie Classics (Paramount Theatre [illegible], 7:30)

[illegible] Mix (73 min. total running time, 1958-88). Featuring several short films by Chris Marker. At Jerry's Eat: A Tribute to Chris Marker (PFA, 8:30)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

[illegible]: Tricks and Black-Out (40 min., 1933). With an introduction by screenwriter Barry Gifford. Followed by [illegible] (28 min., 2003). Wild at Heart: Writer Barry Gifford (PFA, 8:30)

NYC [illegible] Stag Films, 1936-79 Featuring various short erotic films. (Studio [illegible], Oakland)

Wild at Heart (127 min., 1990). With an introduction by screenwriter Barry Gifford and a reading by Jim Nisbet. Wild at Heart: Writer Barry Gifford (PFA, 6:45)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Edible City: Grow the Revolution (60 min., 2012). ([illegible] to [illegible], 10:00 a.m.)

L'Atalante (89 min., 1934). Preceded by Zéro de Conduite (41 min., 1933). In French with English subtitles. Grand Illusion: French Cinema Classics, 1928-1960 (PFA, 3:30)

The Truman Show (103 min., 1998). With a presentation and book signing by [illegible] writer David Thomson. Readings on Cinema (PFA, 5:15)

Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ (143 min., 1925). Berkeley Underground Film Society ([illegible], Berkeley, 7:00)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

[illegible] (110 min., 2000). Bi-polar Night [illegible] (Berkeley City College, 7:00)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

United in Anger: A History of ACT UP (93 min., 2012). [illegible] (PFA, 7:00) ●

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ONCE STRANDED, OBSCURE ALBUMS FIND A CHAMPION

With a new Oakland store, record label Superior Viaduct ramps up its reissues

By Sam Lefebvre

Oakland's Stranded isn't just a new record store; it's home to a record label, Superior Viaduct.

Steve Viaduct opened Stranded with the curatorial discretion of an art gallery. The walls of Oakland's newest record store are adorned with black and white photographs of Bay Area bands mounted beneath effective lighting, the floor plan is spacious and intuitive, and the cover of the album currently playing rests on its own display. It reflects the attention to detail that Viaduct has honed for the last year with his record label Superior Viaduct, which finds its first physical headquarters in Stranded. From behind the counter, Viaduct gestured to a display of LPs from his label's releases and archival compilations — all early Bay Area punk bands such as Black Humor, Noh Mercy, Factrix, and Minnie Cazzaza — but then he brandished his label's most recent release, the Sleepers' *Painless Nights*, out December 11.

"[The Sleepers'] sound separates them from everyone else," said Viaduct. As he elaborated on the Sleepers' role in San Francisco's early punk scene, he explained that while the band was pivotal in the scene revolving around the legendary nightclub Mabuhay Gardens, it hasn't retained the notoriety of its contemporaries, such as The Dead Kennedys or Flipper. Despite being unique for producing a full-length when singles were far more common, the Sleepers fell into obscurity for a number of reasons that Superior Viaduct seeks to rectify with its release. Like most artists championed by Superior Viaduct, the Sleepers defy rigid stylistic categorization. "I think they are authentically punk but to put them in that category is misleading," Viaduct continued.

The new year also will bring Superior Viaduct's first non-Bay Area releases with Eighties LA-based post-punk band 100 Flowers slated for a January release and NYC's Suicide founder Martin Rev's first solo album, making its vinyl debut. All previous releases revolved around the Bay Area's early punk period of 1978-1984, in which Viaduct has made himself a bit of an expert, having not lived here at that time. He began compiling information and seeking recordings of Bay Area punk as a hobby, with a casual plan to produce a documentary or book. "For years I had been doing this research on Bay Area bands, even terrible ones," said Viaduct. "I didn't care. I would still try to learn everything about them."

Viaduct would often discover unknown band names in the yellowing pages of old fanzines and seek out recordings. With an enormous cache of information and records amassed, Viaduct realized that a single book or film wouldn't be comprehensive enough and that most of the music wasn't readily available, and there came the impetus to start an archival record label to serve lost Bay Area bands.

Superior Viaduct's first release, *Love God Love One Another*, is a reissue of the sole album from a little-known duo of San Francisco experimentalists, Black Humor, originally put out in 1982. With astoundingly esoteric instrumentation, twisted lyrics, and album art that involves swastikas, the nearly forgotten outfit might not seem like a sound investment. Yet despite being banned in Germany, the initial pressing of 500 LPs quickly sold out and subsequent pressings remain in print. That controversial record set the tone for Superior Viaduct's commitment to even the most challenging subjects within its historical scope.

Following *Love God*, Superior Viaduct released an archival collection from Noh Mercy, a female drum and vocal duo that hardly played outside of its San Francisco neighborhood during its short incarnation in the late Seventies. Prior to the Superior Viaduct release, only two songs appeared on a now-collectible European compilation, but Viaduct located enough unreleased recordings to create a compelling full length. To celebrate the release, Viaduct even cajoled Noh Mercy into re-forming for a one performance.

Superior Viaduct primarily releases on vinyl, and while the financial prospects of releasing the work of painfully obscure artists on a format considered by most to be outdated might seem grim, the record label's swift ascent suggests the contrary. "There's a demand for some kind of physical artifact," said Viaduct. "With the death of CDs that's happening, consumers are looking for a good format to appreciate music. The superior sound, artwork and packaging — people are willing to pay a premium for that."

Initial pressings of Black Humor's album and singles by The Avengers quickly sold out, while other releases enjoy consistent sales abroad and domestically. Viaduct recalled recently discovering his Noh Mercy release displayed on a wall in a Portman record store. To his amazement, the shop's employee was already familiar with and fond of the album. Revolver, an independent distribution company based in San Francisco, recently invited Superior Viaduct to become one of few labels distributed exclusively through it, and local independent record store chain Amoeba Music will carry the Sleepers' *Painless Nights*.

Dealing primarily in new and used vinyl, Stranded is a brick-and-mortar representation of the niche market that allows labels like Superior Viaduct to thrive. The label's resource-based business model might seem counterintuitive but Viaduct points out that Stranded's selection reveals that there are countless other labels with a similar aesthetic. Even labels that typically focus on releasing the work of new artists are beginning to incorporate reissues into their catalogues. For example, local punk label Alternative Tentacles recently reissued albums from The Dicks, [illegible], and Kylesa, which have been some of its best selling releases of 2012.

Besides financial prosperity and the practicality of a remote label headquarters, opening Stranded has facilitated the kind of human interaction that make so many of Superior Viaduct's releases possible. Viaduct resolutely proclaims that releases like the Sleepers' *Painless Nights* wouldn't be possible without face-to-face interaction with those who remember the band.

The Sleepers' guitarist Michael Belfer said he was excited to learn about the *Painless Nights* reissue and Viaduct making an effort to the renew interest in his former group. "[Our story] has all of the good elements of a tale of rock 'n' roll debauchery: sex with suicidal strippers, biker gang wars, meth labs [and] encounters with Brian Eno. ... We will see if it ever gets written," said Belfer. "In the meantime I'm very grateful that people are still interested in our recordings." ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details

Biographer Sylvie Simmons reads at Stranded (6436 Telegraph Ave. Oakland) on Saturday, Dec. 1, 4 p.m. StrandedOakland.com

Legendary Stardust Cowboy plays the Stranded Holiday Party at White Horse Bar (6551 Telegraph Ave. Oakland) on Thursday, Dec. 13, 9 p.m. $7. WhiteHorseBar.com

El Vez plays Stranded on Monday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.

THE SECOND COMING OF DR. FRANK

Frank Portman's career as a novelist keeps his music alive

By Nathan Pensky

Oakland record store 1-2-3-4 Go! Records is a far cry from 924 Gilman Street in the late Eighties, but for Frank Portman, aka Dr. Frank, the creative force behind classic Bay Area punk outfit the Mr. T Experience (MTX), it's enough. The stage at 1-2-3-4 Go! is a raised platform in a tiny concrete-walled room where pipework hangs bare from the ceiling. It's not the sort of place you'd expect a best-selling young adult author to make an appearance. Then again, most young adult authors aren't former lead singers of legendary punk bands.

At a recent show, Portman stepped up to the mic dressed in a red T-shirt and blue checkered blazer, tested the levels of his acoustic guitar, and started strumming the opening chords to "You Today." Like most MTX songs, this one is sweet, funny, and a little angry, the musical equivalent of a break-up note with a few jokes thrown in to make sure everyone stays friends. Some girls in the front row sang back the song lyrics, one of them dancing, another recording the performance with an iPhone.

As a way to get out of his Oakland home, Portman started playing the old MTX songs again about a year ago, often at monthly appearances at 1-2-3-4 Go!, with the next on December 23, where he plans to play Christmas music. Second acts in punk rock are pretty rare, but Portman seems to have pulled it off. A few days after his 1-2-3-4 Go! gig, when I mentioned to him that he seemed to be having fun onstage, he said, "It's a simulation of energy, probably. But I'm glad to know you were fooled." I was fooled, actually, because Frank Portman the writer is much more of a hot commodity than Dr. Frank, the lead singer, was during MTX's heyday in the late Nineties.

MTX went on indefinite hiatus in 2003 after its tenth album, *Yesterday Rules*, and not long after, Portman wrote *King Dork*, a novel that was met with near-universal acclaim, sold decently, and put its writer on the map. A film version of Portman's first book, *King Dork*, is currently in pre-production, with Walnut Creek native Matt Piedmont directing and D.V. DeVincentis, one of the *High Fidelity* scribes, attached as the screenwriter. Portman is also close to publishing a long-awaited sequel, *King Dork Approximately*.

Things weren't always so easy for Portman. From the mid-1980s to 2004, MTX distinguished itself in the Bay Area punk scene that spawned bands like Operation Ivy, the Donnas, Rancid, and yes, the most successful of that cohort, Green Day. Yet Portman's outfit was always a breed apart. Brainier, weirder, and more obsessive about craft, Portman was like a librarian in a roomful of juvenile delinquents.

The music of the Mr. T Experience has the quick tempo, loud guitars, and beach sensibility of its pop-punk comrades. But Portman's penchant for lyrical wordplay puts him more in the company of Cole Porter or Stephen Sondheim than the groups to which MTX's sound is most often compared — the Ramones and the Dickies. "For whatever reason, for better or for worse, I overwrote the songs and crammed words into them," said Portman. Portman's bookish bent held him in good stead when he became a novelist. He said the transition from one medium to the other was not a difficult one. "It's always amused me how often people have that thought that there's something in conflict about the fact that I'm a rock 'n' roll songwriter who's also writing books about teenagers," said Portman. "Rock 'n' roll is teenager music. It's completely consistent."

Show Details
Frank Portman plays 1-2-3-4 Go! Records (420 40th St., Oakland) on Sunday, Dec. 23, 8 p.m. $7. 1234GoRecords.com

MTX never came close to achieving the popularity of its one-time tourmate, Green Day. While some bands from the Bay Area scene went on to platinum records and Grammy awards, MTX never broke out of mid-level purgatory. The band especially struggled after the advent of file-sharing. Portman still bristles at the economic difficulties facing small bands. "[I don't know] what the future of rock 'n' roll albums will be when there's not a compelling economic reason for them to exist," said Portman. "It could well be that Green Day is, like, the last big rock band that there ever will be."

Not long after MTX's hiatus, a fan of the band and literary agent, Steven Malk, told Portman that some of the characters in his songs might be at home in a young adult book. He took that to heart, adapting the characters of *King Dork* from an MTX song of the same name. "When I started on my first book, I had no idea it would go anywhere," he says. "I just thought of it as like 'This is just a sideline thing. And maybe I could use it to get better shows.'"

Portman lives the writer's life these days, yet he makes time to "do a thing a month." He recently did a European tour with former Groovie Ghoulies frontman Kepi Ghoulie, as part of a regimen he adopted a year ago. "I already have reclusive, antisocial qualities anyway, and being a novelist will really take you to the Nth degree of that," said Portman. "And at one point I realized that, you know, there'd be weeks where I hadn't hardly left the house at all. [Playing these shows] I feel more like a member of the human race." ●

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CD REVIEWS

REBIRTHS AND GROWING PAINS

One half of Floetry returns, Machine Gun Kelly debuts, and Tussle resurfaces.

The Floacist

Floetry Re:Birth

Six years after the fact, the reasons for the notorious breakup of the English neo-soul duo known as Floetry — vocalist Marsha "The Songstress" Ambrosius and singer and spoken word artist Natalie "The Floacist" Stewart — remain a mystery. While Ambrosius moved to the US and into the mainstream of hip-hop and R&B, Stewart stayed behind and maintained the two women's mellow mix of music and poetry. Now with the release of her second solo album, the aptly named *Floetry Re:Birth*, Stewart attempts to reclaim the duo's crown for herself, singing and speaking all the lyrics, except when doing duets with Raheem DeVaughn on one track and with South African chanteuse Thandiswa Mazwai on another.

Stewart reprises Floetry's biggest hit, 2002's "Say Yes," seductively caressing melody lines previously led by Ambrosius over a gentle cushion of strings and Wes Montgomery-inspired guitar fills. Brief interplay between her breathy alto pipes and producer Nolan Weeks' bass voice adds further romance to the love song. The other nine tracks are recent collaborations by Stewart and Weeks. A rhythm section of actual instrumentalists is heard throughout; the loping reggae bounce on "This Love Thing" is especially nice. Horns come in as Mazwai's multi-octave voice soars majestically behind Stewart's poetry on "Roots of Love," a hypnotic homage to Mother Africa. And DeVaughn's high, floating falsetto on the album-opening "Start Again" has a vibe reminiscent of Marvin Gaye's "*Distant Lover*." (Shanachie)

— Lee Hildebrand

Machine Gun Kelly

Lace Up

Coupling punk rock with hip-hop, white-boy wunderkind rapper Machine Gun Kelly (MGK), recently signed to Bad Boy/Interscope, offers a double dose of corporate-sponsored disenfranchised ranting with his debut album *Lace Up*. Part rock aesthetic, part hip-hop/dubstep-spawned trap, part pop and — considering this is a seventeen-track ode to himself — all hype, it's a loud, fun albeit hollow album. Despite a heavy sheen of Top 40 gloss, much of the underground intensity remains; MGK is hungry and it's infectious.

On opening track "Save Me," tinkled pianos, over-the-top (borderline cheesy) metal guitars, and trunk-rattling drops underscore MGK's double-timed lyrical proficiency. It's a solid track but followed by several misses until the dark and solemn "D3mons," which features DMX. With a percussion of gunshots and growling beats laid over trippy synths, "D3mons" is the album's gem. However, it's trademark feral DMX and alludes to part of the problem with such a cameo-friendly debut album — MGK is often outshined by the heavyweights he's emulating. *Lace Up* then shifts gears again on "Stereo," a catchy pop-rap anthem that's overly radio-friendly due to its tight production.

Ultimately, *Lace Up*'s success is a victory of MGK's entertaining and frenetic persona which, while captivating, could be compared, perhaps negatively, to early Kid Rock or Eminem. MGK is a stellar lyricist but his appeal lies in being unpolished, which will present challenges as he matures and refines his sound. (Bad Boy/Interscope)

— Jule Baskin

Machine Gun Kelly plays The Event Center at San Jose State (290 South 7th St., San Jose) on Friday, Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m. $55. Union.SJSU.edu/ec/

Tussle

Tempest

It was a strange experience to hear about a local band from a cultural tastemaker like the *New Yorker*. But last month, the ever-erudite Sasha Frere-Jones blogged about a little-known experimental band named Tussle that has been operating out of San Francisco's Mission District for about a decade. Yeah, a decade.

If you haven't heard of Tussle either, don't worry. The ever-shifting four-piece band has kept a low profile in its surprisingly long career, hardly making a blip on the radar — despite past tours with heavy hitters like Architecture in Helsinki, Hot Chip, and Ratatat — until the late September release *Tempest* raised some eyebrows outside of the experimental electro community. In short, it's the kind of music the *New Yorker* would ogle.

The instrumental outfit, led since 2001 by Nathan Burazer and Jonathan Holland, embraces non-traditional electronic sounds and features complex polyrhythms, Jamaican dub, post-rock bass textures, and an ever-present hint of rolling trance. It often comes closest to sounding like an electronic jam band.

On *Tempest*, however, the jam band element is reined in. The tracks are undeniably catchy, crisply produced, and, sometimes, surprisingly eminently danceable. Tussle's one fault, if you could call it that, is that its influences sometimes seem too collaged, too well-curated, too ascetic. On perhaps the record's best track, "Cat Pirate," the band manages to jump from chiptune stylings to Battles-esque crashes to sparse house thumping, giving the effect of listening to erudite music collectors, not heartfelt musicians. The end result is titillating to be sure, but more for all the influences Tussle conjures up than for its own innovations. (Smalltown Supersound)

— Azeen Ghorayshi

LOCAL LINES

BY [illegible]

Split Screens

Split Screens

The vibraphone sets a dreamy mood on *Split Screens*, the work of multi-instrumentalist Jesse Cafiero. Similar to Real Estate or Caveman minus the pop leanings, Split Screens plays fuzzy folk nostalgia with spaced-out ramblings and blues guitar. At times, the songs suffer from being too ambient, but the arrangements on "Born" allow even the most delicate sounds through. (self-released)

At Brick & Mortar Music Hall (1710 Mission St., SF) on Thursday, Dec. 6, 8 p.m. $7-$10

Black Cobra Vipers

EP

The blues rock influence of The Black Keys can be heard on Black Cobra Vipers' debut, in which Gregory DiMartino's soulful voice chases after rhythm guitars and rock beats. What makes Black Cobra Vipers sound fresh is the often piano-driven elements of funk and jazz, harking back to a band it might not know but should: Steely Dan. (self released)

At Elbo Room (647 Valencia St., San Francisco) on Wednesday, Nov. 28, 8 p.m. $10

The Molestations

Terror Claw

Don't get too attached to garage-punkers The Molestations; *Terror Claw* is a live album of the Oakland group's supposedly last show ever. Listening to *Terror Claw*, it's not entirely surprising that the band didn't gain a larger following in its five years together. The Molestations slap together frenetic percussion and screeching vocals with electric blues guitar to create a cracked-out punk-meets-twangy-rock sound. R.I.P. (self released)

Antwon

End of Earth

San Jose rapper Antwon has had a huge year, from his video for "Helicopter" going viral to producing two solid mixtapes, with a third due next month. His second mixtape *End of Earth* contains his best single to date, if not one of the best singles of the year: "Living Every Dream." The track is a mix of old school hip-hop and modern beats anchored in boom bap sampled from Suzanne Vega's "Tom's Diner." Download the entire mixtape for free on Bandcamp. (self released) ●

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SUM 41

DOWN

THE WARFIELD

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FEBRUARY 16

Prince Royce

NOVEMBER 30

JOHN PRINE

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lamb of god

DECEMBER 13

KMEL HOLIDAY HOUSE OF SOUL

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CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 29

EAST BAY

Classical & Opera

Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela featuring more than 200 young musicians, under the direction of Gustavo Dudamel. Different program each night, check website for full program. Zellerbach Hall, 8 p.m. $30-$99

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

and Round dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers. The Alley, 9 p.m. free
Skip Henderson and Guitarist Duende Bar, 8 p.m. free
Wanna Happy Birthday Show Yoshi's High Club, 8 p.m. $TBA

Rock & Pop

Cast of Crimes Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m. $15-$20
EF Leibowitz happy hour punk piano, Blondie's. 5 p.m. free
Fresh Juice Party w/ Sing, Sal's Greenhouse, Nanotone, and Sayo. Stork Club, 8 p.m. $8
New Spell w/ Molly Roth and Streetlamp French. Starry Plough, 8 p.m. $8-$12
Make-Kill Pop w/ Saturday Dives & The Roadies. 1-2-3-4 Go! Records, 7 p.m. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Larry Dunn's & Dunn's Tribute Hammer Account Blues Party Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m. $37-$38
Maxwell Shalloob Disco Volante. 8:30 p.m. free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

Hardly Strictly Mezmas w/ Kept blues, Red Hot Chachkas, and Charming Hostess. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $20.50-$22.50

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Ted Rutledge Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m. $20

Classical & Opera

SF Opera: Puccini's *Tosca* starring Angela Gheorghiu, Massimo Giordano, Robert Ivanson, Christian Van Horn, Roger Travis, and Joel Sorensen. Orchestra conducted by Nicola Luisotti. War Memorial Opera House. 7:30 p.m., 522-8273

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Chew Aaberger Trio and Jazz Jam in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8:30 p.m. free
Kenny G Holiday Show Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m. $49-$120
The Deep Dive Le Colonial, 7-10 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

5th Annual Mission Valley Show w/ Happy Tango, Spaceshuttles LLC, and more. DNA Lounge, 7 p.m. $30-$65
D. Terrence w/ Twin Steps and Rutledge Tail. Amnesia, 9 p.m., $5-$7
Hayde White & The Mission Wonders w/ These Old Wounds and The Bye Bye Blackbirds. Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m., $10
Rutledge w/ Rutledge Bits, Rutledge Step. 10 p.m. $20
Brokeskies w/ Hollow the Brave and Flying

Crotters. Cafe du Nord, 8:30 p.m. $10
Cool Brienes w/ Fifom Tato and Friends. Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 p.m., $8
Blues Farm w/ Hoobs and David Jacobs-Strain. Blues Blues Power, 8 p.m., $5-$8
Lawrence Arabia w/ Golden Animals and Andrew Keoghan. Hotel Utah, 8 p.m. $10-$12
The Sporting Life w/ Boots Stale and Kent County. Rite Parlor, 8 p.m., $8
The Spyrals w/ The Donuts Make-Out. Bottom 7 p.m. $8
Walk off the Earth w/ Selah Sue and The Mowgli's. The Regency Ballroom, 7:30 p.m., $20-$22

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Alex Harmon Supports w/ Johnny Vidacovich Trio feat. Boot Madrid, Eddie Donuts and special guests. Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m. $12-$20
Shaggy Barto playing "Central Avenue" inspired R&B. Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m. $10

FRIDAY 30

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

The Harmon w/ Jason Wilber. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $34.50

More Listings Online
Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Classical & Opera

The Flow Baroque Quartet: Early Haydn and Late Beethoven Tavenos St. Mark's Episcopal Church. 3 p.m. $15, $10
Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela featuring more than 200 young musicians, under the direction of Gustavo Dudamel. Different program each night, check website for full program. Zellerbach Hall. 8 p.m. $50-$99

Holiday Music

Holiday Tree Lighting live Hanukkah performances. KBLX will host a children's singing competition. Jack London Square. 5 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Kat 510 Trio featuring Max MacVeety on drums and Headcombe on bass. Jupiter. 5-7 p.m. free
Rod Holmes dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers. The Alley. 9 p.m. free
The Marble Lane & Jazz Hammer Supergroup Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m. $20-$25
Terrance Brisbon Trio Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Donuts Show for Mallon w/ Midnight Snare and more TBA. Eli's Mile High Club, 7 p.m. $TBA
Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band Oracle Arena, 8 p.m. $38.50-$98
Terrance w/ Nontaqqun and Yung. Wreckless Metro Operahouse. 8 p.m. $20
Emily Blows w/ Townhouse Dentonites and Kassou Benedict. Stork Club. 8 p.m. $5
Brokeskies Sandy Ridge Brisbon w/ Schoolbreakfast, Camel Car and Dangerous Dubland Belly Dance. The Uptown. 8 p.m. $10
Wreckless w/ Captain, Commonwealth, and Wreckless Kid Sweetman. $3 & Gilman, 7:30 p.m. $10
The Ugly Boots w/ The Dyes and the Ni-Ninites. Starry Plough, 8:30 p.m., $7-$12
X-Mas Music Series w/ The Bayonetes, Zap, Don't Flirt With Puppy Killers, Unarvild and the Sheeps, Hollow Ya, Bad Lil G, Sea the Gentlemen, and Bad Prince, The Triangle Donuts and Fake and Kiwi. Bottom Cafe. 8 p.m. free

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

and Bits Disco Volante. 9 p.m. $5

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

Divertimento Ensemble Piedmont Center for the Arts, 8 p.m. $10-$15
Oakland Hammer with Boca Do Rio w/ SambaFunk, Pinheiro Colectivo, Bo No Glass, and DJ Kalaano. The New Parish, 8 p.m. $12-$15
Zamboras Julio Rutledge w/ Patavos Zumba at 8 p.m., Ashkenaz. 9:30 p.m., $10-$13

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jello Hammer Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m. $20
Joyce Easter & Hammer Sheetrock Zingari Ristorante. 8 p.m.-midnight, free
Patsycheeris w/ Rumble Strippers. Make-Out Room, 7:30 p.m. $8
Brett Hayden w/ Hammer Mustke. The Independent, 8 p.m. $23

Classical & Opera

Chris Botti with the san Francisco Symphony on trumpet, with conductor Edwin Kelly. Davies Symphony Hall, and 30-Dec. 1. 7:30 p.m. $36-$88

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Disco Brisbon Jazz Orchestra Top of the Mark, 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. $10
Kenny G Holiday Show Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m. $49-$120

Rock & Pop

Brisbon!!! w/ Bonnie Engine, Joyn Loosley and the Bath, and The Pagan, Terrance. 8 p.m. $7-$10
Deathsquad w/ Shock and Relevance and Bottle-de-Mage. DNA Lounge, 8 p.m. $6-$10
Dirty Brisbons / Zig Zags and Glitz. Blue Bottle 8:30 p.m. $8
EJ Leibowitz solo rock piano. Wreckless Art Bar, 6-9 p.m. free
IMMS w/ Ash Reiter and Cannons and Clouds. Rickshaw Stop, 8:00 p.m., $10
Gay Fox w/ Ghost & The City, Picture Atlantic, and Donuts Palmer. Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m., $10
Brisbon w/ Windy Hill, Bone Vault, 8 p.m., $8-$10
Kek and w/ Tonto Hayes, Thee Parkside, 8 p.m. $10
The Red Ribbon w/ The Deadbeats, Cafe du Nord. 8:30 p.m. $20
Songwriters in the Round with Alan Rutledge and Alec Wreckless Hotel Café, 7 p.m. free
Sweet Hammer w/ Billy Cramer and Show the Land and Luxjoints, Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 p.m. $7
Boss the Wild Sprocket w/ Loco, Slim's, 8 p.m. $35-$40
Yellowcard w/ The Donuts Years and We Are the In Crowd. The Fillmore, 8 p.m. $35

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Donuts Bradley featuring the Menahan Street Band. Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m. $32
La Dante & the Soshan Bottom Blues Room. 9 p.m. $10-$10
Alex Brisbon Sprocket w/ Johnny Vidacovich Trio feat. Boot Madrid, Eddie Donuts and special guests. Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m. $12-$20

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

Prince Royce w/ Leslie J. The Warfield. 7:30 p.m. $37.50-$52.50

SATURDAY 1

EAST BAY

Holiday Music

5th Annual Yule at the Oakland Zoo Enjoy holiday song and dance presented by the California Revels. Oakland Zoo, 1 p.m. free

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TUE 12/04
TRAILS AND WAYS
[illegible]

THU 12/06
EZRA FURMAN AND HIS BAND
CITY TRAIN, SPLIT DURATION

FRI 12/07
THE BUTTERCREAM GANG
[illegible]

SAT 12/29 MON 12/31
HOT BUTTERED RUM AND FAMILY
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11/29 12/1
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SATURDAY 12/01
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MONDAY 12/03
JACK DAVEY

[illegible] 12/07
JUST BLAZE
[illegible]

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SATURDAY
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SUNDAY 12/16
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C&C

Merrily on High Candlelight Concert St. Paul's Episcopal Church. 7:30 p.m. $17-$30.

Sundown Lights: A Dormitory Christmas St. Mark's Episcopal Church. 8 p.m. $15-$20.

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir 27th Anniversary Holiday Concert Paramount Theatre. 7:30 p.m. $12-$47.

Songs for a Starry Night performed by the Oakland-East Bay Gay Men's Chorus. Odell Johnson Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m. $15-$25.

Choral Choral Concert featuring the Chamber Singers under the direction of James Horvath and the University Church. Holy Names College. 7:30 p.m. $5, $10.

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Danny Zollie Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $20.

Jazz & Joy Zaza at Yoshi's. 5:30 p.m. free.

Music of Bill Withers: John Santos and his Sextet La Peña Cultural Center. 8 p.m. $12, $15.

Kids

Los Amiguitos de La Peña Saturday morning children's show with live music. La Peña Cultural Center. 10:30 a.m. $6, $5 for kids.

Rock & Pop

Mitch Arbige w/ The Chelsea Set, and the Hallyhoolis. Stork Plough. 8:30 p.m. $7-$12.

Bill Payne & Kidd Paul w/ Nicolas Fort. Yoshi's Oakland. 8 & 10 p.m. $20-$25.

Cohesion w/ Sabertooth Zombie, Rat Garbage, Permanent Ruin, Sed, and Crude Studs. 924 Gilman. 8 p.m. $10.

Octoya Deep w/ The Bugg. Stork Club. 8 p.m. $5.

Hot Buttered Rum Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $24.50, $28.50.

King Ruff w/ Jody Hipps, Worm Boots, and Sam Flax. The New Parish. 8:30 p.m. $12-$15.

Concert w/ Celebration, Stellar Corpses, Memphis Murder Ruin, and Useless Grunge. Oakland Metro Operahouse. 7:30 p.m. $12.

Scissors for Lefty w/ The Tilers and Ready to Fate, The Uptown. 9 p.m. $8.

Soul, Rock, R&B, & Hip-Hop

DJ Dull D Dorsey's Locker. 8 p.m. free.

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Tango Revolution Argentine tango dancing with live music, (beginning class at 7 p.m., beginning show at 8 p.m., open dancing 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.) Caffe Mediterraneum. 7 p.m. free.

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Hobbes Cost Plough & Stars. $11 p.m. free.

Mitch Woods & His Rocket 88s Biscuits & Blues. 8 & 10 p.m. $20.

Buckshaye w/ Slaon of Chicago, The Independent. 9 p.m. $20.

Holiday Music

Family Friendly Holiday Concert San Francisco Public Montessori. 5 p.m. $10, $20, free for those under 18.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols San Francisco Renaissance Voices joins lead tenor Corey Head and students from his vocal studio at Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church for a traditional service of lessons and carols. Concert Hoolaa Performance. 7:30 p.m. free.

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Arturo Sandoval Herbst Theatre. 8 p.m. $35-$75.

Kenny G Holiday Show Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 & 10 p.m. $49-$120.

Mike Mitch Mitch w/ C-Money and the Players, Inc. Boom Boom Room. 9 p.m. $10.

Rock & Pop

Ahh Ahh Ahh w/ The Campbell Apartment, Armenia. 9 p.m. $7-$10.

The Bay Hoobus 2012 Rock n' and beer celebrated in a single festival. Public Works. 12:30 p.m. $50-$60.

The Oaklead w/ Jeremy's Daughter and Psychology of Oakland. El Rio. 9 p.m. $5.

Tilt Floors w/ The Hart Heels and Future Speed and Time. The Bottom of the Hill. 8:30 p.m. $2.

Toroplane Sao w/ The Record Company and The Row Tinmanes, Hotel Utah, 9 p.m. $10.

Moonlessed w/ Sir and Vaquero Mopedos. Bottom of the Hill. 10 p.m. $12-$14.

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Soul, Rock, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Memphis Payne w/ Pop Love Quartet, Rec League, Kreakely Oh Wattie and Bd Effective. Café du Nord. 9 p.m. $15.

New Orleans Songbirds w/ Johnny Vidacovich Trio feat. Reed Brunch Eddie Roberts, and special guests. Hotel & Mortar Metro Hall. 8 p.m. $22-$27.

Pixel Islands w/ The Neighborhood, Slim's. 8 p.m. $18.

SUNDAY 2

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Americana Unplugged with Jolting Joseph. 5 p.m. free.

Molly Bear Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $28.50, $30.50.

Sunday Morning Blues with Ron Raheb. Caffe Mediterraneum. 10 a.m., free.

Holiday Music

All I Gosta For Christmas Is The First Presbyterian Church. 4 p.m. $10-$35.

Songs for a Starry Night by Oakland-East Bay Gay Men's Chorus. Odell Johnson Performing Arts Center. 5 p.m. $15-$25.

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Jill Wallace jazz-inspired piano improvisations. Hippie Gypsy Café. 12:30 p.m. free.

Jazz and R&B Night Dorsey's Locker. 8-10 p.m. free.

Rx Christmas Jazz Quartet classic & contemporary jazz. Coffee Mill. 3-6 p.m. free.

John Schott Actual Café. 5 p.m. free.

Mary Christmas & the Mighty Flows Piedmont Piano Company. 4 p.m. $15.

The Handy Music Trio Rick's Lounge. 6:30-10 p.m. free.

Rock & Pop

Got Your Goats w/ This Time Next Year, The Dangerous Summer, The Sandover Scene, and Statue Hill. Oakland Metro Operahouse. 2 p.m. $23-$50.

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Bay Area Arabic Music Orchestra playing music of Tunisia & Memphis. Hecht's Concert. 7 p.m. $27.

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Alvon Biscuits & Blues. 7 & 9 p.m. $15.

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SAT. DEC. 1 · $18 ADV/$18 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
PAUL BANKS
THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

MON. DEC. 3 · $20 ADV/$20 DOOR · DOORS 7 · SHOW 8
DEATH GRIPS
CITIES AVIV

THURS. DEC. 6 · $18.50 ADV/$21 DOOR · DOORS 7 · SHOW 8
STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO
HOSTAGE CALM
LIONIZE

FRI. DEC. 7 · $16 ADV/$16 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
WORLD/INFERNO FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY
O'DEATH
BOBBY JOE EBOLA

SAT. DEC. 8 · $20 ADV/$22 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
THE POLYPHONIC SPREE
HOLIDAY SHOW

WED. DEC. 12 · $21 ADV/$21 DOOR · DOORS 7:30, SHOW 8
JD McPHERSON
WEST COAST RAMBLERS

THURS. DEC. 13 · $15 ADV/$15 DOOR · DOORS 8 · SHOW 9
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WED. NOV. 28 · $20 ADV/$25 DOOR · DOORS 7 · SHOW 8
WORLD PARTY
MARTIN HARLEY

THURS. NOV. 29 · $35 ADV/$40 DOOR · DOORS 7 · SHOW 8
TOAD THE WET SPROCKET
A NIGHT OF "FEAR" AND OTHER HITS
(SOLD BY SLIM'S ON FRI., NOV. 30)
MEGAN SLANKARD

FRI. NOV. 30 · $22 ADV/$22 DOOR · DOORS 8, SHOW 9
CHARLES HAMLET
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SUN. DEC. 2 · $ ADV/$ DOOR · DOORS · SHOW 8
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SUN. DEC. 9 · $26 ADV/$28 DOOR · DOORS 7 · SHOW 8
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MON. DEC. 10 · $21 ADV/$23 DOOR · DOORS 7 · SHOW 8
ANTIBALAS
AFROLICIOUS DJS
PLEASUREMAKER & SEÑOR OZ

TUE, WED, FRI, SAT, SUN, DEC. 11, 12, 14, 15, 16
$21 ADV/$21 DOOR · DOORS 7, SHOW 8
CHRIS ROBINSON BROTHERHOOD

Gibson

AWAKEN

WEDNESDAY 11/28
WEDNESDAY NIGHT JAZZ SERIES
WRAPPED IN PLASTIC
7PM (FREE)

THURSDAY 11/29
NAKED THURSDAYS WITH TIM LATTANAND
THIS WEEK SOUGATA ROY CHOWDHURY AND TIM WITTER
7PM (FREE)

FRIDAY 11/23
JL STILES & CHRIS JONES
8PM (FREE)

SATURDAY 11/24
the mighty mississippi
afternoon show 1pm (FREE)
GO VAN GOGH
8 PM (FREE)

COMING UP...
december first friday
gamelan x
with sam rogers & classical revolution

DECEMBER 14TH
OAKTOWN INDIE MAYHEM
URBAN BACKWOODS
FEAT MOANIN' OLD SPORT

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PUNCH LINE SAN FRANCISCO
WEDNESDAY 11/28 – SATURDAY 12/1
BRET ERNST
THURSDAY 12/6 – SATURDAY 12/8
BOBBY SLAYTON

Cobb's Comedy Club
KYLE KINANE & PETE HOLMES
JIM BREUER
RICHARD LEWIS

DISCOVER YOUR SPIRIT CREATURE
Mission Lounge

PICKS

Dirty Ghosts

Uzi Rash

Oakland punk outfit Uzi Rash is calling it quits after five years. Just home from its "Uzi Rash (2007-2012) End Days Last Tour," the band will play its final show with Terry Malts, Apogee Sound Club, K"zen, and Yogurt Brain. Uzi Rash is known for its deafening live sets that are full of surprises and showmanship — front man Mat Nunlife has been reported to beat himself in the head with his mic until he bleeds. At a recent Halloween show at The New Parish, the band changed its advertised set of covers from The Fall to a tribute to The Doors, turning classics such as "Riders on the Storm" into an evil, post-punk, keyboard-driven jam session. Fans are already requesting The Doors' "The End" on the final show Facebook event page, but you can expect tracks from Uzi Rash's final album, *Constant Roll Con-Loser*, out on 1-2-3-4 Go! Records, and *Beast of Trash*, a 38-song compilation recently released on Burger Records. Uzi Rash says goodbye at Sugar Mountain Studio (2545 San Pablo Ave., Oakland) on Thursday, Nov. 29. 9:00 p.m. $5. — *Whitney Phaneuf*

Dirty Ghosts

Dirty Ghosts is something of a rising star nearing ascendancy in the Bay Area music scene, uniting lighthearted new wave and a little funk under a rock aesthetic. After playing this year's Noise Pop and Treasure Island Music Festival, Dirty Ghosts kicked off a US tour at San Francisco's Rock and Mortar Music Hall. Now back home its members — not quite ready to set their gear down — are getting right back into the local gig routine, a mark of a band that thrives off exhaustion, as long as it's for the music. Front woman and guitarist Allyson Baker brings to Dirty Ghosts a voice reminiscent of Kim Gordon from Sonic Youth, but more pop-candy and less jaded-sounding. Baker is accompanied by swirling, scratchy guitars, catchy riffs, and the occasional handclap. A certain infectiousness flows through the temples of every song — an effect that is only magnified when the band plays live. Catch Dirty Ghosts with Zig Zags and Glitz at Elbo Room (647 Valencia St., San Francisco) on Friday, Nov. 30. 9:30 p.m., $8. Elbo.com — *Leslie Cruz*

Denny Zeitlin

[illegible] before you ever heard the "don't quit your day job" mantra — Bay Area-based jazz pianist Denny Zeitlin took that aphorism seriously. Since getting his M.D. in 1964, Zeitlin has balanced dual careers as a psychiatrist and jazz musician. With trios that included Charlie Haden and Jerry Granelli, he released a few fine discs on Columbia Records in the Sixties; in the Seventies, Zeitlin explored synthesizers, culminating in him composing and performing the soundtrack for director Philip Kaufman's 1978 remake of the sci-fi classic *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. Zeitlin's approach melds the improvising lyricism of Bill Evans and John Lewis with the edgy, percussive key-crushing of McCoy Tyner and Don Pullen. See him in a rare solo concert at Piedmont Piano Company (1728 San Pablo Ave., Oakland) on Saturday, Dec. 1. 8 p.m. $20. PiedmontPiano.com — *Mark Keresman*

Truston

Before it got a bad name, emotionally charged indie rock was the stuff that could simultaneously crush you with the weight of the world and lift you upward, making you feel like everything and anything was within reach. That was the distinct feeling I got when I first saw Truston, an Oakland band that's been slogging away in relative (and unfortunate) obscurity for the last decade-plus. Led by vocalist/guitarist Hanse Armentrout, the band excels in heartstrings-tugging emotional depth and anthemic guitars; its 2012 single, "Long Time No See," features Armentrout's soaring falsetto, swirling arpeggios, and driving rhythms, climaxing into a bittersweet lament to *Let the Dilwolld do her work*. After fifteen years in Oakland, Armentrout recently announced he's moving to Richmond, Virginia. The band will attempt to be bicoastal, he said, and is currently working on a new album. Catch Truston's last California show at El Rio (3158 Mission St., San Francisco) on Monday, Dec. 3, with The Phillistines and Rags to Widows (also featuring Armentrout). 7 p.m., $5. ElRioSF.com — *E.K.*

C&C

The Kelly Price Hot [illegible] and Jazz [illegible] Armando's, 8 p.m., $20

Terry Savastano Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 p.m., free

Wesley Morgan & Trio Bonane w/ The Dirty [illegible] Family Band. Boom Boom Room, 8 p.m., $5

Whitehorse w/ The Harmaru, Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $8-$10

Classical & Opera

Rock The Hall Davies Symphony Hall, 11 a.m., [illegible]

[illegible] on piano for champagne brunch, Top of the Mark, 10 a.m./1 p.m., $45-75 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

Gospel & Vocal

Blind Boys of Alabama: "Go Tell It on the Mountain" Herbst Theatre, 7 p.m., $35-$75

Gospel Brunch with Future Perfect & rotating guests. 1300 on Fillmore, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., $38, includes brunch

SFJazz Presents: The Blind Boys of Alabama Herbst Theatre, 7 p.m., $35-$75

Holiday Music

SF Symphony presents Deck The Hall Davies Symphony Hall, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m., $30-$55

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Kurt [illegible] Trio Chez's Brasserie, 6-9 p.m., free

[illegible] Lamson & Friends with Andrew Speight, Sam Grobe-Heintz, and [illegible] Stillman. [illegible] Saloon, 2:30 & [illegible] p.m., $5

Rock & Pop

Foxtbus festival where Bay Area bands cover other Bay Area bands. First day: Patrick Wolff Group, Electromagnetic [illegible] Orch., The Holly Martins, and Aaron Novik. Make-Out Room, 8 p.m., free, suggested donation $10

The Plug w/ Strange Vibe, Highlands, and [illegible]. Bottom of the Hill, 8:30 p.m., $8

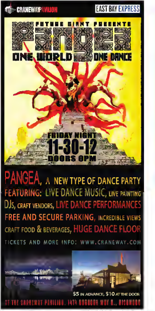
Josh Rowey [illegible] Music Hall, 2 p.m., $7-$10

Jonathan Richman w/ Tommy Larkins. Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $18

The [illegible] Show w/ [illegible] Academy and The Sugar Honey, Elbo Room, 9 p.m., $6

Mick Shaffer & Affected Young w/ The [illegible], 4 p.m., free

Morning Glory w/ Dead City Riot and Burn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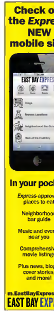
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THURSDAY NOV. 29

SELECTOR: DJ FFLOOD 9PM

[illegible] New York City [illegible] OAK AND [illegible]

myspace.com/fflood

FRIDAY NOV. 30

TERRENCE BREWER TRIO 9PM

[illegible] terrencebrewer.com

SATURDAY DEC. 1

JINX JONES TRIO 9PM

[illegible]

jinxjones.com

C&C

Clay Suarts, Thee Parkside, 8 p.m., $6

SAN FRANCISCO Rock Project's 2nd Annual Holiday Stank Prom w/ Sticksters & the Clams, Rob Saggetti, Ava Woodward's Ornamental Ways, and more. Brick and Stage, 8 p.m. $10

Virgil Shaw w/ Matty Charles and The Lady Crooners. Hemlock Tavern, 6 p.m., $8

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Kinky The Independent, 8 p.m. $25

MONDAY 3

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Jazzschool Women Studio Singers, a Showcase featuring Laurie Antonioli, Madeline Eastman, Kitty Margolis, Ed Reed, and Sheila Jordan. Jazzschool, 8 p.m., $14.50, $18.50

Rock & Pop

Shiner Shines w/ Rob Moose and Elizabeth Ziman, Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $15

Jack Beaty The New Parish, 8 p.m., $7-$10

VENUE DIRECTORY

EAST BAY

1-2-3-4 Go! Records 423 40th St., Oakland, 510-985-0325.

25th Street Collective 477 25th St., Oakland, 510-384-3846.

57th Street Art Ghetto 5701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-654-6974.

924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9926.

Air Gas & Lounge 492 9th St., Lower Patio, Oakland, 510-444-2311.

Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2473.

The Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-8505.

Amoeba Music 2455 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1125.

Amnesia 4101 Mama Vista Ave., Rockett, 925-228-0985.

Art Music Gallery & Cultural Studio 2970 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-472-3170.

Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054.

The Battle 130 Park Pl., Point Richmond, 510-236-1004.

Blake's on Telegraph 519 17th St., Oakland, 510-444-2285.

Studio Bella Studio for the Arts 1810 Lincoln St., Alameda, 510-523-8957.

The Bistro 1001 B St., Hayward, 510-886-8525.

Club Tiki Tiki Ti 3821 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-763-7711.

Caffe Trieste 2500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5858.

Valentine's Bayview Club 1580 Walnut St., #B, Berkeley, 510-848-8095.

Club Lucky 1220 Pine St., Walnut Creek, 925-938-4566.

Club 81 111 Mission St., Oakland, 510-380-5425.

2nd Studio 428 3rd St., Oakland, 510-463-0665.

Studio Ned 3263 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4224.

Studio Lounge 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-463-2881.

Ford & Irish Sports Bar 1520 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-938-1331.

Black Wonder 347 14th St., Oakland, 510-663-5711.

Eagles and 2306 Alameda Ave., Magnolia, 415-235-6285.

Easy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-338-4911.

Eli's Mile High Club 3629 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland, 510-384-3086.

Era Art Bar and Lounge 19 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-832-4400.

Studio & Jones Cosmos 126 Broadway, Oakland, 510-889-2357.

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Le Jazz Hot Le Colonial, 7 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Positives Festival where Bay Area Studio cover other Bay Area bands: Second Gay, Nathan Chevenger Group, Myles Studio's Post, Present Future, Studio and Jordan Glenn. Make Out Stash, 8 p.m., free, suggested donation $10

Lake Scenery & Wet Vacuum Joy Magic w/ Upstairs Downstairs, Matt Barbara An Ditmore | Along With Michael Shaw and DJ Hal, Martineson, Smith & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m., free

Berkeley w/ Bloom Blues, Hemlock Tavern, 7 p.m., $8

The Protections w/ Awesome and Rags To Riches, El Rio, 8 p.m., $6

PBS Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 p.m., free

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Gentle Grips w/ Cities Arts, Slim's, 8 p.m., $20

TUESDAY 4

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696.

First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-3555.

Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-302-2250.

Frais 101 W. Jackson St., Hayward, 510-583-1100.

Freight & Salvage 2020 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-644-2020.

Stars and UC Berkeley Berkeley Way at College Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-0000.

High Street Church 1563 High St., Alameda, 510-523-8148.

Street Paradise Club 1436 Webster St., Alameda, 510-865-2225.

Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-845-5373.

Studio Community Studio of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237.

John Patrick's 1813 Park St., Alameda, 510-523-5085.

Julie's Studio @ The Alamo 1223 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-2399.

Lounge 1881 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8211.

Kimball's Carnival 522 2nd St., Oakland, 510-444-8408.

Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-5464.

Kingman's Ivy Street 838 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-5888.

La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568.

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-436-4793.

Lakeshore Avenue Lounge Church 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-893-2484.

Laney College Theater 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-464-3543.

The Layover 1517 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1517.

Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-523-4700.

Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, [illegible]

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677.

Mosser's Sports Bar & Grill 2121 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7695.

Maxwell's Lounge 341 13th St., Oakland, 510-839-6169.

Mills College 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-430-2255.

Oakland, Mondo 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1683.

New Parish Oakland City 1410 Webster St., Oakland, 510-251-0700.

The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland, 510-444-7474.

Mosaic Cafe 6506 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-655-5344.

Oakland City Center 900 12th St., Oakland, 510-238-0910.

Oakland Studio Speakeasy 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-1180.

UKAZZ Radio 3300 Broadway Way, Oakland, 510-509-2120.

Paradise Lounge 5172 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-635-0095.

Roadhouse Avenue 2625 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-8400.

Piedmont Studio for the Arts 801 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont, PiedmontCenterfortheArts.org.

Piedmont Piano Company 1728 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-547-8188.

Quinn's Lighthouse 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, 510-536-2050.

Radio 435 13th St., Oakland, 510-451-2889.

Rhythmix Cultural Works 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5060.

The Rock Steady 1045 San Pablo Ave., Oakland.

Rooftop Ridge 3563 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-4631.

Webster & Roadhouse 1700 Clement Ave., Alameda, 510-331-9130.

Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland, 510-444-7224.

Studio Stork 4290 Mowry Rd., Fremont, 510-979-0411.

Russell Highlands 2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Ste. 130, San Ramon, 925-831-0111.

Shoreline Amphitheatre Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, 650-967-3000.

Spokebower 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300.

Spreckels Church 2140 N Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-944-1888.

St. Mark's & Collective Center 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-848-8107.

St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6830.

Stacey Church 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2080.

Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174.

Studio 1510 1510 8th St., Oakland.

Subterranean Art Studio 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-601-1283.

Studio District 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-553-8888.

Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-8100.

Studio & Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 925-685-9838.

Studio Orinda/Oakland, Southwood 5064 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2456.

Oakland, Roadhouse UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-4280.

White Horse Inn 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3820.

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200.

Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-9988.

Steward Healy Peter's Stork ward, 8 10 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Lee Ritenour w/ Mike Stern, Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $24-$32

Red Studio dinner jazz with great cabaret singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Studio Blues w/ guests TBA, Stork Tags, 8 p.m., $5

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Jazzmageddon Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Rock Hill Bernal's Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $18

Taj Studio w/ Dia Elbrace, The Independent, 8 p.m., $40

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Monk & Stork Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $20-$22

Rock & Pop

8 Inches of Stereo w/ Humbeast, The Hawkers, and Radio Thee Parkside, 8 p.m., $12

Red Weather California w/ The Stork

Tapes and Dylan Harvey, Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 p.m. $8

The Electrophilians w/ Sarah & Camon Rouge and The Loose Cannons, El Rio, 7 p.m. $5

The Family Blues w/ Low Magic and Garage Voice, Hotel Utah, 8 p.m. $8

Santi Blues w/ Francesco Lot, Cafe du Nord, 9:30 p.m. $12-$15

Brent and Mayo w/ Cayenne and The Samba Pots, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m. free

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Blues and Bar Bottom Blues Blues Blues, 8 p.m. $5

WEDNESDAY 5

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

James [illegible] Cafe Van Kleef, 9:30 p.m. TBA

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

The Jazz Beast a benefit for the [illegible] Jazz Program, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 7:30 p.m. $20.50-$22.50

Joel [illegible] w/ [illegible], Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $24-$32

Rock & Pop

The [illegible] w/ Twin Steps, Younger Lovers and Von Sneh, 1-2-3-4 Go! Theatre, 7 p.m. $6

Midnight Gala w/ Outpost and more TBA, Stork Club, 9 p.m. $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Brent Toinoto w/ The Adversary and Redwood Son, Hotel Utah, 8 p.m. $8

Kathi [illegible] Blues Showcase w/ Freddie Hughes, Biscuits & Blues, 8 p.m. $15

Taj Mahal w/ Bill [illegible], The Independent, 8 p.m. $40

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Plays Beethoven's Emperor Concerto, Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $37-$185

MTT Conducts Symphonie Fantastique Davies Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $15-$156

Holiday Music

The [illegible] Christmas Sing-Along w/ [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m. $20

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Dink Dink Dink w/ Gaucho, Eric Garland's Jazz Session, Amnesia, 7 p.m., free

Tuck & Patti Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. $20-$22

Rock & Pop

Moe Schulers w/ The Physics and Brothers From Another, The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $19.50

How to Dress Well w/ Buoys and Sandrelle, Rickshaw Stop, 8 p.m., $12-$14

Surprise Rodeo w/ Saint Sonia and [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m. $8

Tilden Whitley w/ Social Studies, House [illegible] and more, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m. $8-$10

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] DNA Lounge, 9 p.m. $20

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

Danny Zeitlin plays the Piedmont Piano Company on 12/1

VENUE DIRECTORY

SAN FRANCISCO

50 Mason Social House 50 Mason St., 415-433-5050
103 Harriet 103 Harriet St., 415-364-1015
111 Minna Gallery 111 Minna St., 415-974-1719
222 Club 222 Hyde St., 415-440-0222
330 Ritch 330 Ritch St., 415-541-9574
1015 Folsom 1015 Folsom St., 415-431-1200
Amnesia 853 Valencia St., 415-970-0012
Amoeba Music 1855 Haight St., 415-831-1200
Audium 1616 Bush St., 415-771-1616
And Bar & Lounge 1 Tillman Pl., 415-362-9750
Bazaar Cafe 5927 California St., 415-831-5620
Beach Chalet 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439
Bender's Bar 2199 Mission St., 415-399-0923
Bimbo's 365 Club 1025 Columbus Ave, 415-474-0365
Biscuits & Blues 401 Mason St., 415-292-2583
Boom Boom Room 1601 Fillmore St., 415-673-8000
Bottom of The Hill 1233 17th St., 415-621-4455
Brick & Mortar Music Hall 1710 Mission St., 415-800-8782
Bruno's 2389 Mission St., 415-643-5200
Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St., 415-861-5016
Cafe International 508 Haight St., 415-558-713
Caffe Trieste 609 Vallejo St., 415-392-2065
Cat Club 1190 Folsom St., 415-431-3332
The Cellar 685 Sutter St., 415-441-5678
[illegible] Theatre 810 [illegible] St., 415-704-3200
[illegible] 678 Green St., 415-421-8227
Davies Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave., 415-864-6000
DNA Lounge 375 11th St., 415-626-1409
Dogpatch Saloon 2496 3rd St., 415-643-8592
Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074
[illegible] 2790 16th St., 415-437-0248
El Rio 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325
Elbo Room 647 Valencia St., 415-552-7788
The [illegible] 850 [illegible] St., 415-863-0999
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000
Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St., 415-885-0750
Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St., 415-923-0923
Herbst Theatre 401 Van Ness Ave., 415-392-4400
Hotel Utah 500 4th St., 415-546-6300
The Independent 628 Divisadero St., 415-771-1421
Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St., 415-954-0777
The Knockout 3223 Mission St., 415-550-6994
Madrone Lounge 500 Divisadero St., 415-241-0202
Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St., 415-647-2888
Mezzanine 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880
Mighty 119 Utah St., 415-762-0151
Milk Bar 1840 Haight St., 415-387-6455
Monarch 101 6th St.
The [illegible] 66 West Portal Ave., 415-664-2044
Noe Valley Ministry 1021 Sanchez St., 415-454-5238
Park Chalet 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439
[illegible] 1620 Powell St., 415-646-0018
Public Works 161 Erie St., 415-932-0955
Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695
The Regency Ballroom 1300 Van Ness Ave., 888-929-7849
Retox Lounge 628 20th St., 415-626-7386
Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St., 415-861-2011
Riptide 3639 Taraval St., 415-681-8433
Rockit Room 406 Clement St., 415-387-6343
Rrazz Room 222 Mason St., 415-394-1189
Ruby Skye 420 Mason St., 415-693-0777
San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St., 415-503-6275
Skip's Tavern 453 Cortland Ave., 415-282-3856
[illegible] Lounge 3600 16th St., 415-625-9204
Slim's 333 11th St., 415-522-0333
Slate Bar 2925 16th St., 415-558-8521
Space 550 550 Barneveld Ave., 415-550-8286
Stud Bar 399 9th St., 415-863-6623
SubMission Gallery 2183 Mission St., 415-255-7227
Supper Club 657 Harrison St., 415-348-0900
Swig 561 Geary St., 415-931-7292
Temple 540 Howard St., 415-978-9942
Thee Parkside 1600 17th St., 415-252-1330
Top of the Mark 999 California St., 415-616-6916
[illegible] 424 Haight St., 415-864-8607
Velvet Lounge 443 Broadway St., 415-788-0228
The Warfield 982 Market St., 415-775-7722
Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600

THE STARRY PLOUGH PUB

WED 11/28 8:00PM THE BERKELEY SLAM CHRIS CHANDLER
THU 11/29 8:00PM HEW SPELL FEATHER-BRIGHT DANIELLE FRENCH
FRI 11/30 8:30PM THE UGLY BEATS (TX) THE OGRES THE HI-NOBLES
SAT 12/1 8:30PM ADIOS AMIGO THE CHELSEA SET THE HOLLYHOCKS
SUN 12/2 4:00PM KIM KENNY AND FRIENDS
THU 12/6 8:00PM THE FAMILY FOLK EXPLOSION, THESE HILLS OF GOLD THE HOOT HOOTS
FRI 12/7 8:00PM OF SHAPE AND SOUND HOTEL EDEN ECHO TWIN

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SAT 10PM $7/$5 b4 11
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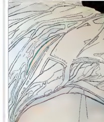

Painting by Tony Koury

FEB 14 2013

Submission deadline:
February 1, 2013

More info:
Briefs.Erotic@EastBayExpress.com

GRAND LAKE THEATRE

DJ & DANCE

EAST BAY

THURSDAY 29

Body Language w/ DJs D-Ace and Gene G spinning '70s and '80s funk, pop, R&B and hip-hop. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

Club Fever w/ Seduce Club Sound spinning reggae & dancehall. Pearl-Antique Restaurant, 10 p.m., free.

Delicious Thursdays Radio, 10 p.m., free.

DJ AAKS spinning eclectic ear candy. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

DJ Dewo spinning, 9 p.m., free.

DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free.

DJ Shub spinning lounge. Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free.

International Night Lounge featuring DJ the Lab spinning Eurobeat, French pop, Italian film soundtracks, Latin American garage, sexy lounge, & exotica. Forbidden Island, 8 p.m., free.

Soft Ruff indie pop, mash-ups, new wave. Radio, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free.

Tasty ladies' night w/ DJ Mr. [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21, 9 p.m., $12-$15.

Temple w/ DJ Matthew Kahn spinning global bass power hits. White Horse Inn, 10 p.m.-midnight, free.

Ultra Wave DJ Pure, Slab One, and White Mare play dance music across genres. Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

Uplift Thursdays w/ DJ Bai Ra and guests spinning roots reggae and dancehall. Continental Club, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $8.

Groove Groove Groove featuring DJs Carlos Mesa and Cecil. Bench and Bar, 9 p.m., free.

More Listings Online
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FRIDAY 30

Club 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music. Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15.

DJ Soul spinning '60s 45s, disco and hip-hop. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., free.

DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free.

DJ Dennis's Fresh Juice Happy Hour w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, soul, & funk. Hallway Lounge, 5-8 p.m., free.

DJ Willie Dunn Somar Bar & Lounge, 8 p.m., free.

Music Fridays rotating DJs spinning hip-hop, R&B, and reggae. New Karibbean City, 9 p.m., $6 admission until 1 a.m.

Friday Night Salsa w/ guest DJs spinning salsa. La Estrellita Cafe, 10 p.m., $5.

Friday Mix Jams w/ DJ Sepa K. Fowns, 10 p.m., $5.

Happy Hour w/ DJ Ronnie Grim spinning punk, rock, indie & noise rock. The Mezman Lounge, 6-10 p.m., free.

Hip-Hop Bench Music w/ Rated DJ, Club 1220, 9 p.m., $6.

Groove Shack w/ DJ Ray Wonder, Groove Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free, $5 cover after 11 p.m.

The Lady and Her Gentleman Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m., $TBA.

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Enlpex spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, bachata, Spanish pop, & house. Bench and Bar, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $6-$15.

Mandala weekly in-house DJ series. Selector Music, 8 p.m., free.

Old-School hip-hop and funk. Radio, 9 p.m., free.

Shock Night w/ DJ Sound spinning reggae, soca, salsa, & R&B. Shock Paradise Club, 10 p.m., ladies free before 11:30 p.m.

Retro-Urban Shock behind Doors '80s pop night. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

Sultry Fridays DJ Lush & Fat Rob spin R&B & soul. Kimball's Carnival, 8 p.m., $7.

World Club Fridays featuring DJ Teopic spinning bhangra, bossa, samba, salsa, merengue, dancehall, reggae, bhangra, Arabic music, & more. Conga Lounge, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY 1

All Productions & Hendricks Bits spinning R&B & hip-hop. Foxes, 10 p.m., free.

Club Xhandorf w/ DJ Fase and guests spinning hip-hop & R&B. Bench and Bar, 9 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m.

DJ Joe Quinn The Layover, 9 p.m., free.

East Bay Honky-Tonk DJ El Sauer spins classic country, bluegrass, alt.country, honky-tonk, blues, and more. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free.

Groove Saturdays Club 1220, 9 p.m., $8.

La Onda Loca Latino cowboy night w/ DJs spinning salsa, norteño, & banda plus hot go-go requests. Club 21, 8 p.m., $6-$15.

Magic Milk Dance DJ Blond & guests host go-go-sucking extravaganza. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 8 p.m., free.

Reggae Night Conga Lounge, 10 p.m., free.

Ships in the Night The New Parish, free before midnight, $5.

Soooo Saturdays rotating DJs spin classic hip-hop, neo soul, and world flavors. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m., $10 after.

Groove w/ DJ Kenzel spinning mashups, funk, groove and soul. Groove Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., $10.

Venue w/ DJs Orlo and Edelin, White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $5.

SUNDAY 2

The Shook w/ Selector Ken Choice and DJ D Sharp. Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m., free.

DJ Roody Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

King of Kings Reggae Sundays spinning reggae, dancehall, and lovers rock with resident DJ Smoky. The New Parish, 10 p.m., $10, free for ladies before 11pm.

Pinkies Antique Fair Retro Lounge featuring DJs spinning rock'n' roll and more. Forbidden Island, 3 p.m., free.

Soul Sundays w/ The Workshop Crew featuring DJs Lisa, Pure Love, Rene Escovedo, Durgit, Frantic Chris, and Adrian. Origin Lounge, 2-8 p.m., free.

Under The Sea Sundays DJs spin the rockabilly & rock. The Hotsy Totsy Club, 3 p.m., free.

MONDAY 3

Caribbean Nights w/ DJs Sog and Lalo Brown spinning world, reggae, Latin, and hip-hop. Somar Bar & Lounge, 10 p.m., free.

Selector Mondays The Layover, 9 p.m., free.

Soul Selector w/ DJ Floored, Daves Yolanda, 8 p.m., free.

Three-Day Weekend DJ Prashant Kumar spins local favorites. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

Underground Lounge psyche '60s & prog '70s music. Radio, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free.

TUESDAY 4

Country Music Night plus free dancing. Club 1220, 8 p.m., free.

DJ Night DJs spinning funkadelic pop and more. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free.

DJ Nemo spinning punk. Lost Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free.

World Situation w/ DJ Salonta & DJ spinning funk, groove, afrobeat, dancehall, Groove beat, dirty south, grime, 90's hip-hop, salsa, and dub. The Layover, 10 p.m., free.

Ima Queen Soul Dance Somar Bar & Lounge, 8 p.m., $TBA.

Soul Fyah w/ Jason I and rotating guests spinning reggae, dancehall, and African rhythms. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

Stay Punk! w/ DJ Overthrow spinning indie, punk, hardcore, & metal. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free.

WEDNESDAY 5

The Jet Set w/ DJ Santero and special guests. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

The Jump Off: Hump Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop. Club 21, 8 p.m., $6-$15.

Knuckle Sandwich w/ DJ Foo Dog. The Layover, 9 p.m., free.

Otto's Grotto featuring DJ Otto. Forbidden Island, 8 p.m., free.

Persuasion the lounge night w/ host Violeta. Bench and Bar, 7 p.m., $6-$15.

Groove resident DJs Soul Perfecta and Laydic and special guests spin hip-hop, deep house, Balearic beat, cumbia, dancehall, and Brazilian rhythms. Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free.

Trainwreck! DJ Terrible Timmy spins everything from doo wop to punk rock from the '50s through the '70s. Merchant's Saloon, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free.

PICK

Get Freaky

Fans of digital-heavy electronic music — often classified as "glitch" for its beats laden with error noises such as skipping, scratching, and hissing — should head to Get Freaky to hear Canadian duo Knight Riders and local favorites the Dirtybird crew. Knight Riders marry glitch with instrumental hip-hop and mid-tempo tracks that build with lush drums and wobbly low-frequency bass. Expect a diverse set of remixes — Knight Riders has given the low-end treatment to everyone from hip-hop duo King Fantastic to Radiohead. San Francisco-based label DirtyBird fills its own room with DJs Christian Martin, Worthy, Ardalan, and Nick Monaco, regulars at the infamous DirtyBird barbecues in Golden Gate Park that have been going strong for a decade. DirtyBird's sound takes the minimal techno that originated in Detroit and the UK and bumps up the booty-shaking with thumping bass lines, bounce, and breakbeat. Unlike dubstep's trance builds and big drops, these beats stay consistent and danceable. Ambient sonically cinematic producer Bluetech headlines Get Freaky at 1015 Folsom (1015 Folsom St., San Francisco) on Friday, Nov. 30, 10 p.m., $15, 1015.com — *Whitney Phaneuf*

SAVAGE LOVE

GOING SOLO

A defense of singles — and of polyamory as a choice.

By Dan Savage

I'm a straight man at that age where the general public still considers me young. Although I've attended many weddings, I have no interest in marrying or even being in a relationship. I never have.

I'm not asexual. I've had and enjoyed sex. I just don't feel the need to be with anyone. As long as I've got music and friends, I'm satisfied. Unfortunately, I seem to be the only one. My parents want grandkids. My friends want to set me up. My television set only ever shows people in or pursuing relationships. My government wants me to father and raise future dead soldiers. I try not to internalize these views, but sometimes I wonder what's going to happen if I change my mind somewhere down the road. What the hell's wrong with me? Or not wrong with me? What do I tell people who insist that something's wrong or that I'll change my mind? And what should I do if I actually do change my mind?

I Don't Give A Fuck

Honestly, yours is one of those letters that I have a hard time giving much of a fuck about. Don't get me wrong. You sound like a nice guy, articulate and pithy, and I typically like people who know what they do and don't want.

But cowards annoy me. Forgive me for working my own sexuality into this, but I have to say: When I was at that age the general public unanimously considers young — still a teenager — I walked into my mother's bedroom and informed her that I was a faggot. (Begging my parents for tickets to the national tour of *A Chorus Line* for my thirteenth birthday somehow didn't do the job. Five years later, I had to come out to them all over again.) If I could work up the nerve to come out to my very Catholic parents about putting dicks in my mouth — at the beginning of the AIDS crisis, at that — you can find the courage to come out to your parents and friends as not asexual, not unhappy, and not planning to date, cohabit, wed, or reproduce.

But while I'm not sympathetic to your plight, I found someone who is. "Few young adults say they're not interested in sex or relationships, but IDGAF's preference for going solo is hardly unique," said Eric Klinenberg, professor of sociology at New York University and author of *Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone*. "Today, an unprecedented number of people are opting to live alone. One-person households represent 28 percent of all households in the US, and in cities the numbers are higher."

Your coupled-up friends and grandchild-starved parents might have an easier time accepting your lifestyle choices if they knew just how common they are.

"In recent decades," said Klinenberg, "young adults have been the fastest growing group of American singletons. They're delaying marriage and spending more years single. Moreover, they increasingly recognize the fact that over their long lives, they're likely to cycle in and out of different situations: alone together, together alone."

And despite the negative stereotypes that slosh around about single people — they're antisocial, unhappy, isolated — Klinenberg's research shows that those who live alone do just fine in the friends and social life departments.

"People who live alone tend to be more social than people who are married," said Klinenberg. "They're more likely to spend time with friends and neighbors, more likely to spend time and money in bars, cafes, and restaurants, and even more likely to volunteer in civic organizations. So much for the myth of selfish singles!"

So what should you tell your nagging friends and family? "How about letting them know that going solo is what works best for him right now," said Klinenberg, "but that he's hardly made a vow to stay single forever. Or if he's feeling feisty, he can remind them that no matter how they've arranged their lives at the moment, someday they might find themselves opting out of sex and relationships too."

What should you do if you change your mind someday? You should date, you should marry. Don't describe your current choices as superior — even if it does mean a better social life — and you won't have to eat crow if you change your mind.

"We've come a long way in our attitudes about sex and relationships," said Klinenberg. "Now that living alone is more common than living with a spouse and two children, isn't it time we learned to respect the choice to go solo, too?"

Indeed it is. And the sooner you demand a little respect from your parents and friends for your choices, IDGAF, the sooner you'll get it.

@fakedansavage says polyamory is a "choice," not an "identity." Where have we heard that argument before? Meet the new bigots, same as the old.

@lillyMadge

If all people are naturally nonmonogamous — a point I've made about ten million times — then, from my perspective, polyamory and monogamy are relationship models, not sexual orientations. (And if poly and monogamy are sexual orientations, Lily, wouldn't going solo have to be considered one, too?) That was my point. Poly can be central to someone's sexual self-conception, and it can be hugely important, but I don't think it's an orientation in the same way that gay, straight, or bisexual are orientations.

People can and do, of course, identify as poly. But is poly something anyone can do or something some people are? I come down on the "do" side. Lily clearly disagrees.

But as @GetItBigGirl said on Twitter, where Lily and I engaged about my comments in last week's column: "Openly pondering difference between orientation vs. lifestyle isn't bigotry; legislating against polyamory is."

No one is legislating against polyamory here. Just thinkin' about things. ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage
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CASE No. RP12655000

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11/28, 12/5, 12/12/2012

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Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by RYAN TERRY, A SINGLE MAN, dated 02/20/2009 and recorded 3/6/2009, as Instrument No. 2009067201, in Book , Page , of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 12/14/2012 at 12:30PM, At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1121 40TH ST, APT 3302, EMERYVILLE, CA, 946083750. 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Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. If required by the provisions of section 2923.5 of the California Civil Code, the declaration from the mortgagee, beneficiary or authorized agent is attached to the Notice of Trustee's Sale duly recorded with the appropriate County Recorder's Office. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on a property itself. 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Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by ANDREW J RUST, A SINGLE MAN, dated 07/26/2006 and recorded 8/4/2006, as Instrument No. 2006299756, in Book , Page , of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 12/27/2012 at 9:00AM, Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, CA 94612, 3rd Floor Lodge/Banquet Room at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 7 COMMODORE DR APT A454, EMERYVILLE, CA, 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $303,134.06. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. If required by the provisions of section 2923.5 of the California Civil Code, the declaration from the mortgagee, beneficiary or authorized agent is attached to the Notice of Trustee's Sale duly recorded with the appropriate County Recorder's Office. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on a property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 1-800-281-8219 or visit this Internet Web site www.recontrustco.com, using the file number assigned to this case TS No. 11-0084744. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281-8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. A-4329912 11/21/2012, 11/28/2012, 12/05/2012

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE APN: 049-1022-015 TS No: CA09000827-10-1 TO No: 100059950-CA-LPI YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED March 21, 2008. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On December 13, 2012 at 09:00 AM, 3rd Floor Lodge/Banquet Room at Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, CA 94612, MTC FINANCIAL INC. dba TRUSTEE CORPS, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on March 27, 2008 as Instrument No. 2008093446 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by AMI RICHTER ALBRIGHT, A SINGLE WOMAN, as Trustor(s), in favor of WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1007 41ST ST #135, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $471,388.56 (Estimated), provided, however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call Auction.com at 800.280.2832 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address on the previous page for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA09000827-10-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: November 1, 2012 TRUSTEE CORPS TS No. CA09000827-10-1 17100 Gillette Ave, Irvine, CA 92614 949-252-8300 Lupe Tabita, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT www.Auction.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AUCTION.COM at 800.280.2832 TRUSTEE CORPS MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. To the extent your original obligation was discharged, or is subject to an automatic stay of bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code, this notice is for compliance and/or informational purposes only and does not constitute an attempt to collect a debt or to impose personal liability for such obligation. However, a secured party retains rights under its security instrument, including the right to foreclose its lien. A-4322985 11/07/2012, 11/14/2012, 11/21/2012

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE APN: 049-1531-011-00 TS No: CA08003378-11-2 TO No: 5900047 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED October 13, 2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On December 13, 2012 at 09:00 AM, 3rd Floor Lodge/Banquet Room at Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, CA 94612, MTC FINANCIAL INC. dba TRUSTEE CORPS, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on October 19, 2006 as Instrument No. 2006391951 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by ZOHREH TAJBAKHSH, UNMARRIED, as Trustor(s), in favor of JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A. as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6363 CHRISTIE AVE 304, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $309,023.10 (Estimated), provided, however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call Auction.com at 800.280.2832 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address on the previous page for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA08003378-11-2. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: November 7, 2012 TRUSTEE CORPS TS No. CA08003378-11-2 17100 Gillette Ave, Irvine, CA 92614 949-252-8300 Lupe Tabita, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT www.Auction.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AUCTION.COM at 800.280.2832 TRUSTEE CORPS MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. To the extent your original obligation was discharged, or is subject to an automatic stay of bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code, this notice is for compliance and/or informational purposes only and does not constitute an attempt to collect a debt or to impose personal liability for such obligation. However, a secured party retains rights under its security instrument, including the right to foreclose its lien. A-4325463 11/14/2012, 11/21/2012, 11/28/2012

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